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HEADLINE: INTO THE WORLD OF JEW HATRED

BYLINE: -- LARRY WILLIAMS

BODY:

PROTOCOLS OF ZION

2005 documentary, directed by Marc **Levin**. A ThinkFilm release, 93 minutes. Rated R for language, some disturbing content and brief nudity.

Shortly after 9/11, Marc **Levin** heard something startling: 4,000 Jews had been warned not to go to work at the World Trade Center that day, and thus no Jews were killed by the terrorist attacks. That would mean that Muslim radicals were taking the blame for what was obviously a **Jewish** plot. That came as no surprise, of course, to people familiar with the **Jewish** plan for world domination described in ``The **Protocols** of the Learned Elders of Zion," published in 1905.

What really amazed **Levin** was that people actually believed all that.

So he decided to make a movie about anti-Semitism, focusing on rumors about 9/11 and the remarkable durability of the **Protocols**, which continue to excite Jew hatred long after being exposed as a hoax in 1920.

What makes the **Protocols** so effective is their seeming confirmation of all the conspiracy theories that have driven anti-Semitism for centuries. Purportedly the minutes of a meeting at which the Learned Elders decided how to control world events, they give bigots the ``proof" they crave. If you don't believe it, that just proves how clever the Jews are at manipulating you.

Henry Ford was a true believer, saying in 1921, a year after the hoax was revealed in a book published in England: ``They are 16 years old, and they have fitted the world situation up to this time. They fit it now."

It's hard to imagine someone so prominent being openly anti-Semitic today.

But in 2003, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad matter-of-factly described the hidden Jewish influence on world events to a conference on Islam. The same year Egyptian television broadcast a miniseries, ``The Diaspora," that presented the **Protocols** as fact, and included a scene in which Jews slit a child's throat to get blood for some ritual.

In the United States, many bookstores sell copies of the **Protocols**, and numerous websites publish them, along with a growing array of anti-Semitic and Nazi propaganda. And the phony story about Jews staying home from work on 9/11 has a lot of believers.

As **Levin** journeys into the world of Jew hatred, he confronts bigots with facts: that many Jews died on 9/11, that the **Protocols** are proven fakes, and that Jewish control of the media (an axiom of anti-Semitism) does not exist. What he learns, and shows us, is that the truth is a feeble weapon against irrational hatred.

This is an excellent movie, eye-opening even to people well-versed in the subject. I was shocked, for example, that a mainstream talk-radio station in St. Louis featured one host who was openly racist and anti-Semitic. (I thought that stuff was relegated to short wave.)

One thing I did not like was **Levin's** willingness to debate the anti-Semites, not only for the purpose of the film, but over the air at that St. Louis station. It was nauseating to see him speak to the reptilian host as though reasoning with him would have any effect.

On some issues there should be no debate. This is one of them.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: (B&W), THINKFILM

MARC **LEVIN** interviews Shaun Walker, right, chairman of the National Alliance, in the warehouse of his mail-order business, which sells anti-Semitic literature, including the ``**Protocols** of the Elders of Zion." Walker resigned in June shortly after being charged with a hate

crime in Utah.

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