

Freedom Next Time by John Pilger
Bantam Press 2006

John Pilger is an angry man. He seems always to have been an angry man, railing at injustice, duplicity and hypocrisy, and as the years have passed by his anger appears to have grown rather than diminished.

For those of a different political persuasion - and if the reader is in any doubt before opening the book the quote on the cover from Noam Chomsky is a dead giveaway - Pilger may be easy to categorise as a fully paid up member of the awkward squad, guaranteed to rain on someone else's parade. In some ways this may be true, but it is also grossly simplistic, and denies a greater truth about what Pilger writes. For, by and large, Pilger's opinions and his instincts are sound, and his genuineness seems unimpeachable. In *Freedom Next Time*, John Pilger focuses on five subjects: the forced depopulation of the Chagossians from the islands of the Chagos archipelago, about which this reader, and I suspect many others, know very little; the quagmire of Israel and the Palestinians; India, South Africa and Afghanistan.

Even if one disagrees with Pilger on some details it is hard to resist the overall thrust of his prose, or to ignore some of the things that most rouse his ire.

This is a book whose morality is profound and whose anger on behalf of others is palpable; to all those who care about truth and justice it is an essential read.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh