

No Joke

by Phyllis Chesler



A friend who recently published a [book](#) about the UK had this to say:

“A man posted the following online: ‘I once was a mammal but now I’m a bird.’”

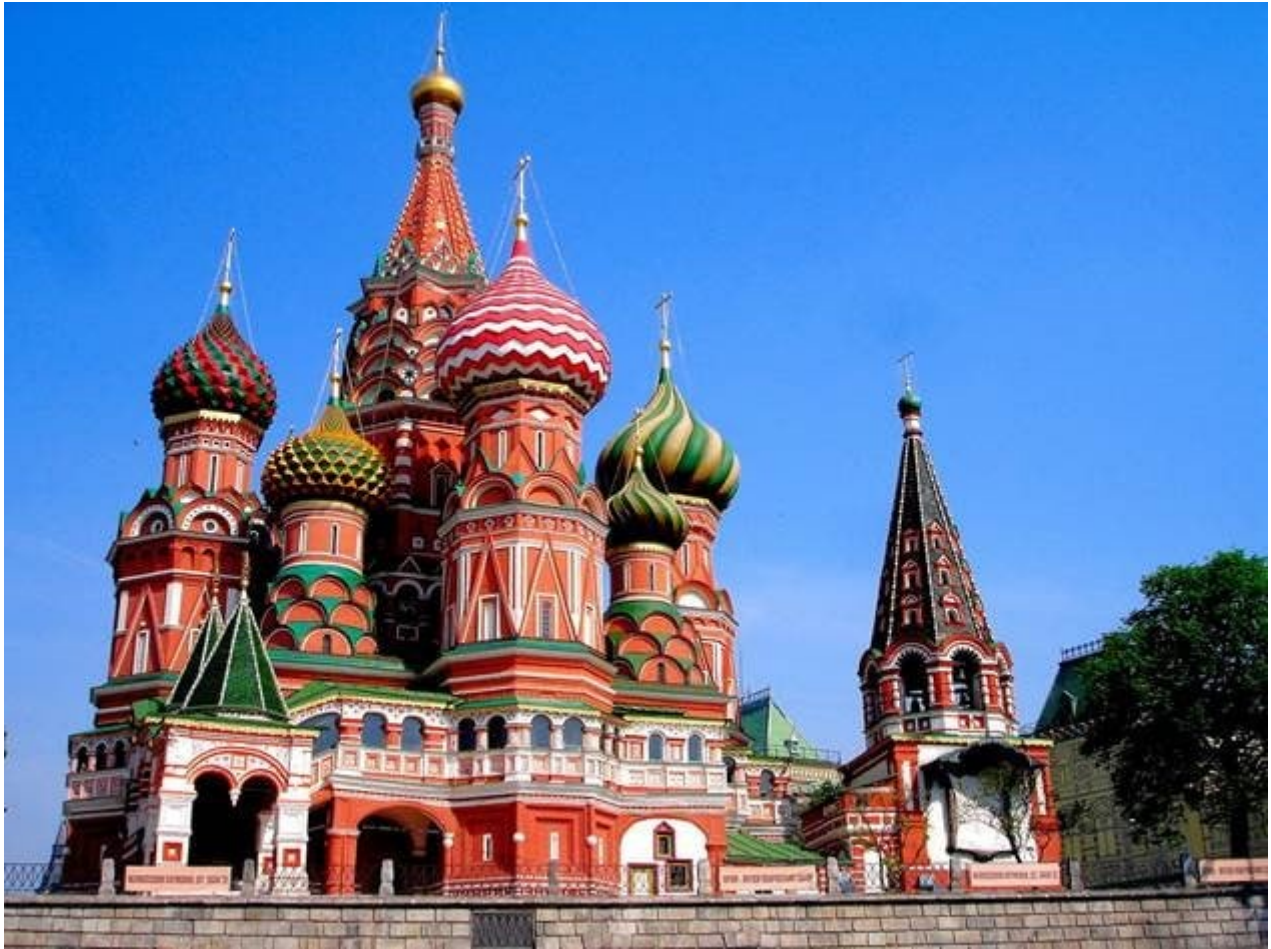
When he told me this I could not stop laughing.

But I stopped laughing when he followed it up with this:

“And so Scotland Yard came to visit him, to warn him. ‘We know what you had in mind and that’s a crime. Remove it.’”

Laughter no longer became me when he said: “People in bars all over the UK are screaming: ‘Hitler didn’t finish the job, the Jews are a scourge and a menace to the nations.’”

This elicited no visit from the Yard. Not a single demonstration.



My dear friend is the great Tuvia Tenenbom who has just spent four months in Russia and written up a storm about it. Contrary to myth, he found it a place of High Culture and of flourishing Jewish life. People were warm and friendly.

Someone should publish his piece, which first appeared in German in *Die Zeit* but which now exists in English. It's a wonderful read that deserves a large audience.