

Antisemitism – Yesterday and Today



Bernie M. Farber
Len Rudner
November 14-15, 2019



Evil Words lead to Evil Deeds

“Life and death are in the power of the tongue”

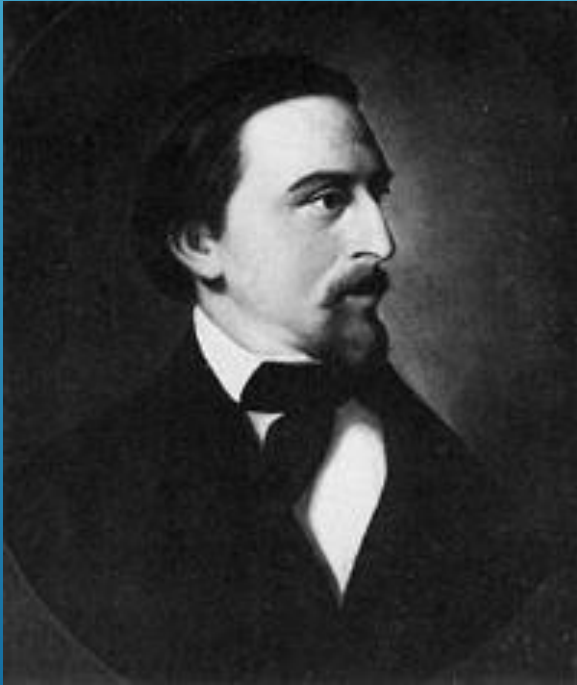
Proverbs 18:21

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What is Antisemitism?



Wilhelm Marr



What is Antisemitism?

“Hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.” (Webster’s)

“The longest hatred.” (Robert Wistrich)


It is the act of “hating Jews more than is absolutely necessary.” (Anon.)

It is a belief that “enables everything to be arranged, smoothed over and simplified.” (Charles Maurras)

“It is a rumour about the Jews.” (Theodor Adorno)

The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

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The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with **conspiring to harm humanity**, and it is often used to **blame Jews** for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the **power of Jews as collective** — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a **world Jewish conspiracy** or of **Jews controlling** the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

Accusing Jews as a people of **being responsible** for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.

The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of **inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust**. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Accusing Jewish citizens of **being more loyal to Israel**, or to the **alleged priorities of Jews worldwide**, than to the interests of their own nations.

Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.

Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of **Jews killing Jesus or blood libel**) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

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The evolution of Antisemitism



The Root of it all

“In the beginning of God’s creating the heavens and the earth ...

“Now the serpent was cunning beyond any beast of the field that God Had made.”



If God is

- Omnipotent
- Omnibenevolent
- Omnipresent



Then why do bad things happen to good people?



The Search for the Reason Why

“The Devil becomes the cosmic scapegoat, saving God from blame for evil”

- Wray & Mobley, *The Birth of Satan*

Why do bad things happen to me?



- Why has the economy collapsed?
- Why have I lost my job?
- Why couldn't I get into the university I wanted?
- What happened to my retirement?

Can't

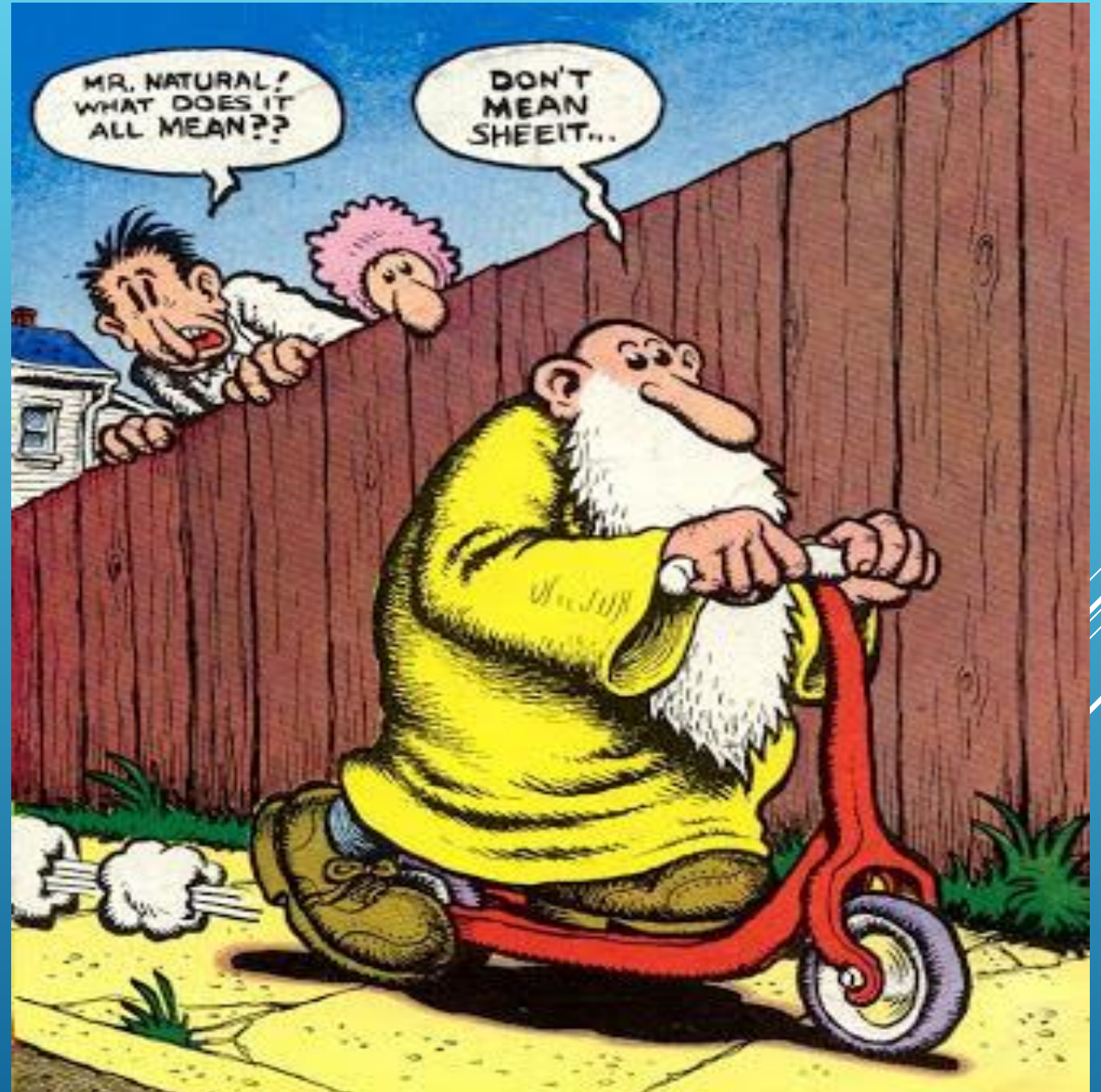
someone

tell me

what

it all

means?



Judaism and Christianity

Rebel Rabbi or Messiah?

Crucifixion and the Charge of Deicide

Competition and Product Differentiation

You can choose your friends but you are stuck with your family

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The Synagogue of Satan

In league with the Devil

Poisoning wells during
Middle Ages

Responsible for the Black
Death

The Blood Libel



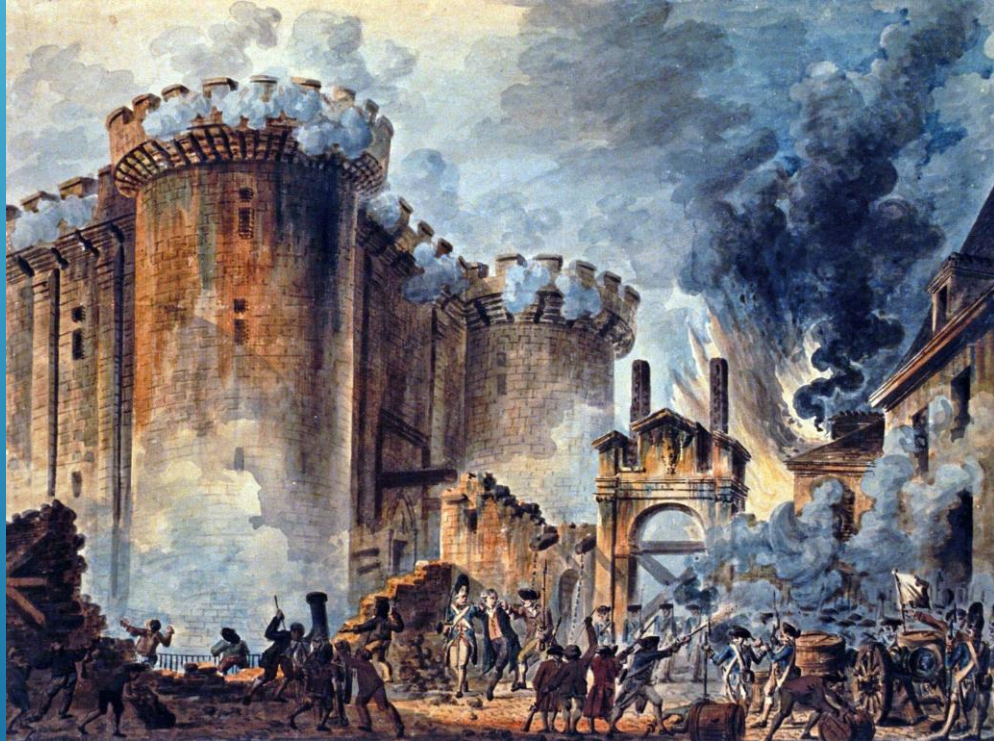
The Capitalist.....



...and the communist



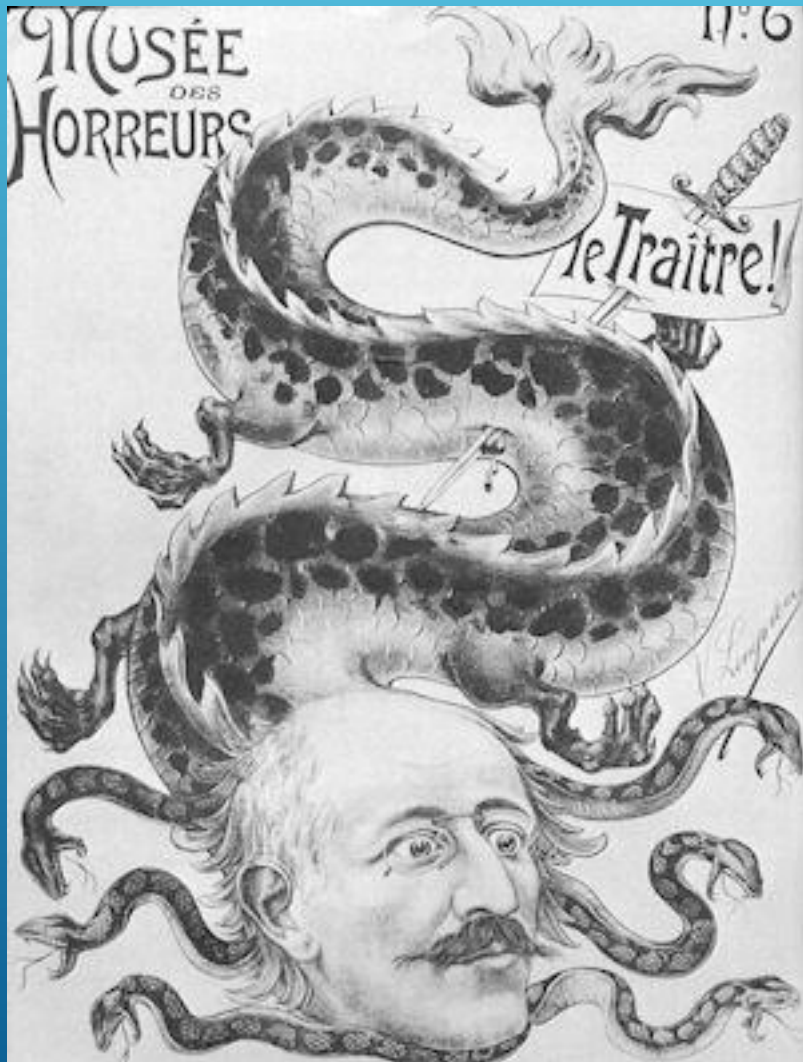
The revolutionary....



....and the flunky



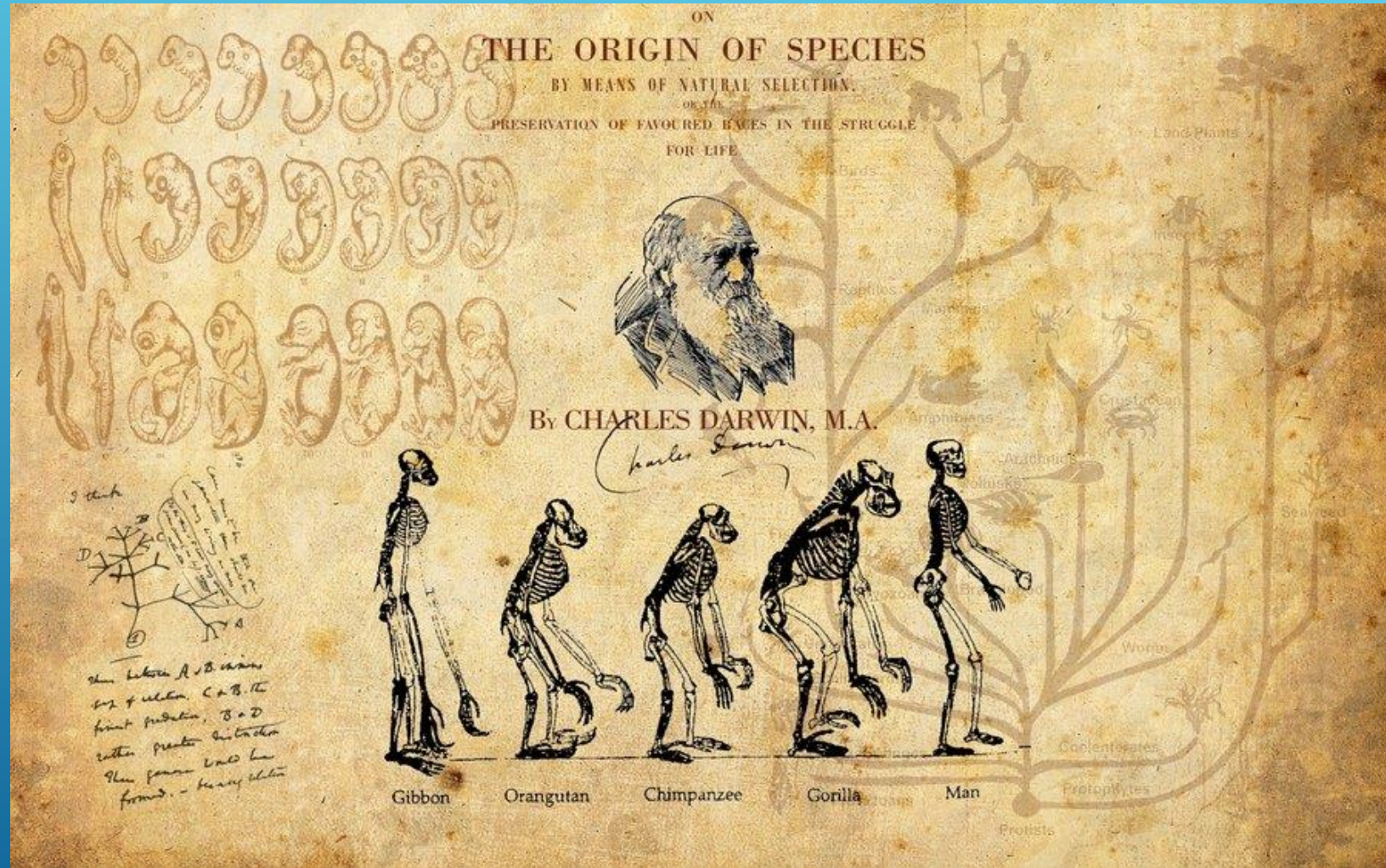
The lowest vermin ...



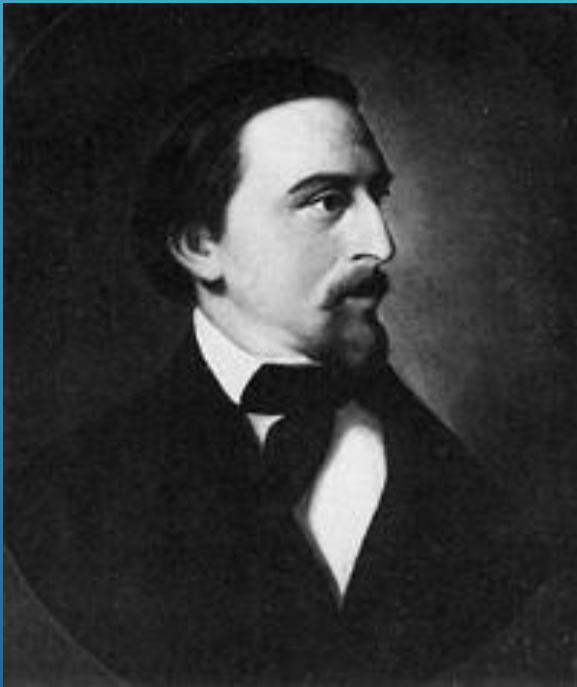
.... The greatest evil



Science



..... and its perversion




National Socialism – Antisemitism and the Holocaust



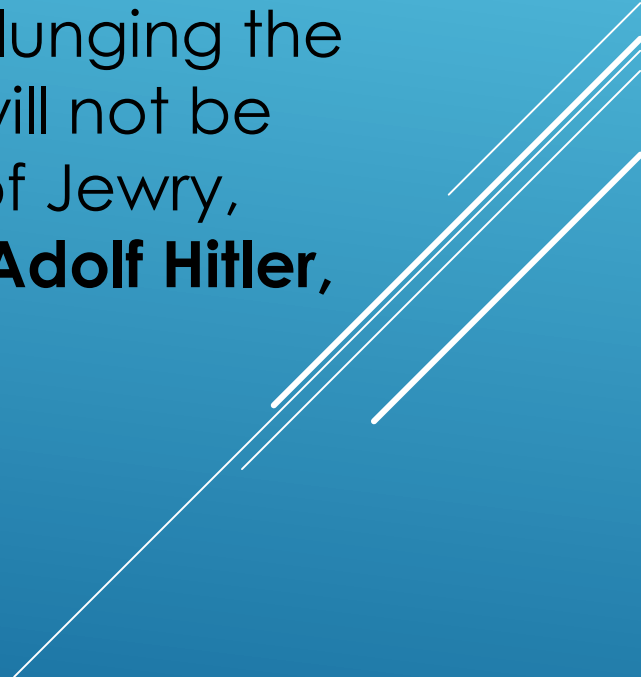
The Centrality of Antisemitism

As for the final goal and mission of the Germanic *volkische* movement, as far as Jews are concerned ... it is to wipe out the Eastern European and vermin Jew with an iron broom. A perfect job needs to be done.” – ***Volkische Beobachter*, 1922**



The Centrality of Antisemitism

“Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!” - **Adolf Hitler, January 30, 1939**

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The Centrality of Antisemitism

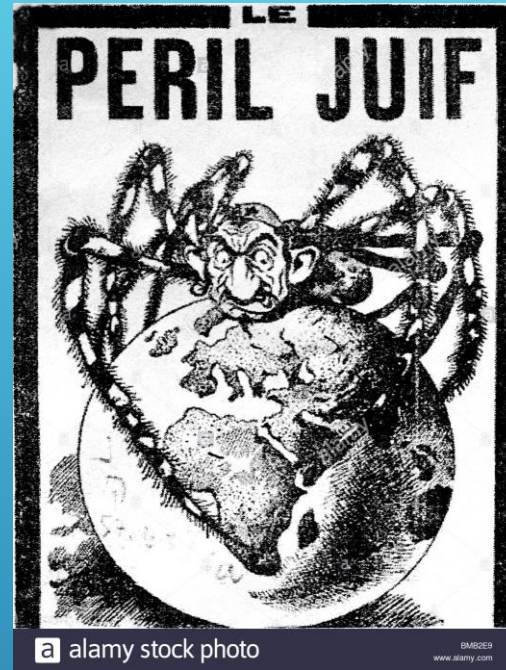
“Centuries will go by, but from the ruins of our towns and our monuments the hatred of those ultimately responsible will always grow anew against the people whom we have to thank for all this – international Jewry and its henchmen....Above all, I oblige the national leadership and its followers to observe the racial laws scrupulously and subject the poisoner of all nations – international Jewry – to merciless resistance.” – **Adolf Hitler, April 29, 1945**

The Centrality of Antisemitism

“... a war of simple conquest, no matter how devastatingly triumphant, could never suffice. In addition to starving inferior races and taking their land, Germany needed to simultaneously defeat the Jews, whose global power and insidious universalism would undermine any such healthy racial campaign The Jews were a ‘pestilence, a spiritual pestilence worse than the Black Death.’”

-- Timothy Snyder, “Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning”

Conspiracies



True plots tend to play themselves out within limited timeframes which can be quantified in days, weeks, months or even a few years – But never centuries. Such plots are geographically limited ... but never encompass the entire world. Never more than a small number of people are involved in true conspiracies ... Not thousands or millions

- Goldschlager & Lemaire, *The Conspiracy Revealed*

Der Giftpilz (The Poisoned Mushroom)



“Just as a single poisonous mushrooms can kill a whole family, so a solitary Jew can destroy a whole village, a whole city, even an entire Volk Just as poisonous mushrooms often lead to the most dreadful calamity, so the Jew is the cause of misery and distress, illness and death.”

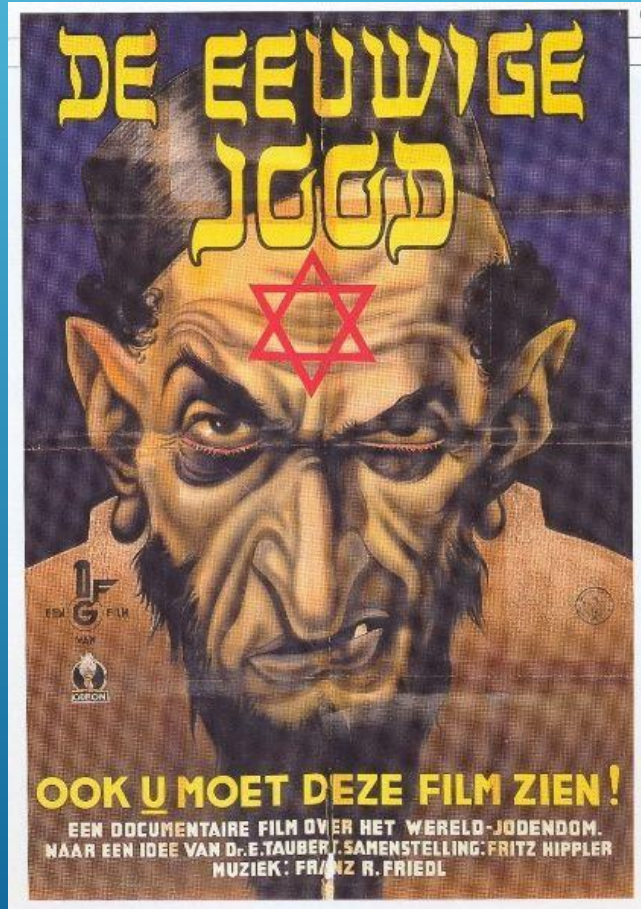
The persistence of the Image



Damned souls of
the devil

Bringers of disease
and death

The Persistence of the Image



The persistence of the Image

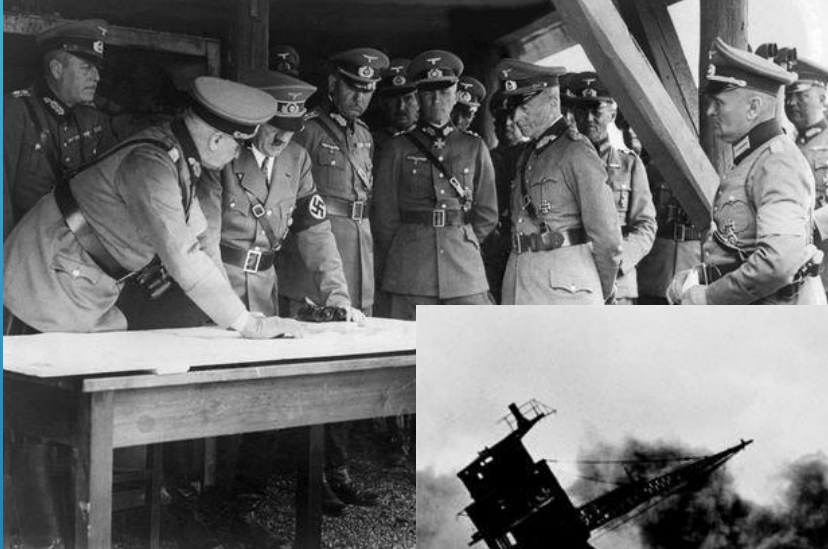


Drinkers
of Blood
leeches

The persistence of the Image



Four Days that should live in Infamy





“Hitler’s basic critique was not the usual one, that human beings were good but had been corrupted by an overly Jewish civilization. It was, rather that human beings were animals and that any exercise of ethical deliberation was in itself a sign of Jewish corruption. The very attempt to set a universal ideal and strain towards it was precisely what was hateful.”

- Timothy Snyder, *Black Earth*

Genocide gives Nazism a bad name

If the reality of the Holocaust can be minimized or denied then it becomes possible to consider National Socialism 'rationally' as just one more political ideology.

If National Socialism is just another system that – maybe - made some mistakes, then surely it can be rehabilitated?

Post-war to the present



Revisionism versus Denial

Historical Revisionism

- Re-interpretation of the historical record.
- Introduction of evidence contrary to orthodox view.
- Reinterpreting the motivations and decisions of the people involved.
- Example: Should Canadians honour Sir John A. MacDonald?

Historical Denial

- Deliberate attempt to mislead
- Makes use of dishonest academic techniques (use of forged documents, deliberate mistranslation, attribution of false conclusions)
- Example: The Lost Cause of the Confederacy (States Rights v. Slavery)

Holocaust Denial

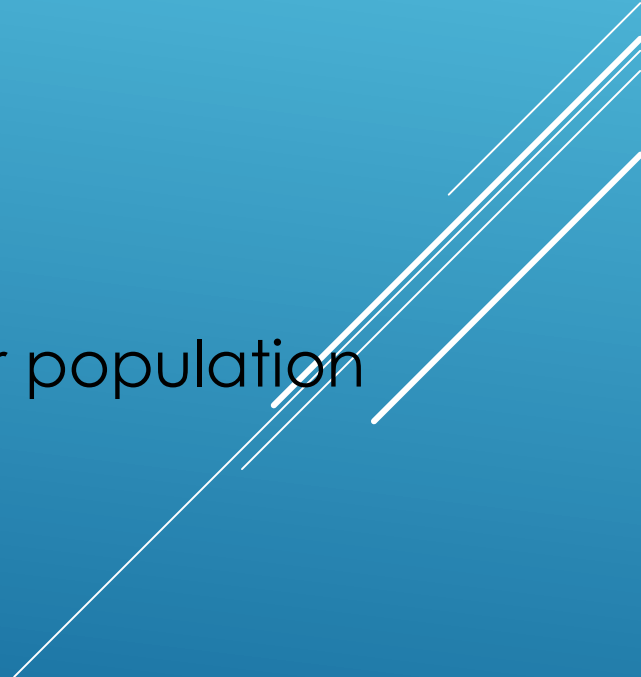
Holocaust Denial (excerpted the IHRA working definition)

- Denies the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II. Holocaust denial refers specifically to any attempt to claim that the Holocaust did not take place.
- Holocaust denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.

So How do we know that anything happens?

- We know about the past through a convergence of evidence, when different lines of inquiry from different classes of fact come together.
- “There is an assumption by deniers that if they can find just one tiny crack in the Holocaust structure, the entire edifice will come tumbling down. This is a fundamental flaw in their reasoning. ***The Holocaust is not a single event that a single fact can prove or disprove....*** Minor errors or inconsistencies here or there cannot disprove the Holocaust, for the simple reason that these lone bits of data never proved it in the first place. “ – Michael Sherman, Alex Grobman

So what *does* prove it?

- Written Documents
 - Eyewitness testimony
 - Photographs
 - The camps themselves
 - Inferential evidence such as reconstructed pre-war population demographics
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Holocaust Denial (tricks of the trade)

- Zyklon B was a fumigant (Faurisson)
- “No Holes No Holocaust” (David Irving)
- Anne Frank Diary and ball point pens (David Irving et al)
- *Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*

Allan Gardens (May 30, 1965)



The Canadian Nazi Party

The Heritage Front (1989-2005)



**Confront
the Heritage Front**


This Friday, the Heritage Front (a white-supremacist hate group) will be holding a public meeting featuring international figures in the broader neo-Nazi movement as a victory celebration for British holocaust revisionist David Irving.

Anti-racist counter demonstration
Friday the 13th, 6pm
Meet at Kytes, 169-A Augusta Ave.,
in Kensington Market

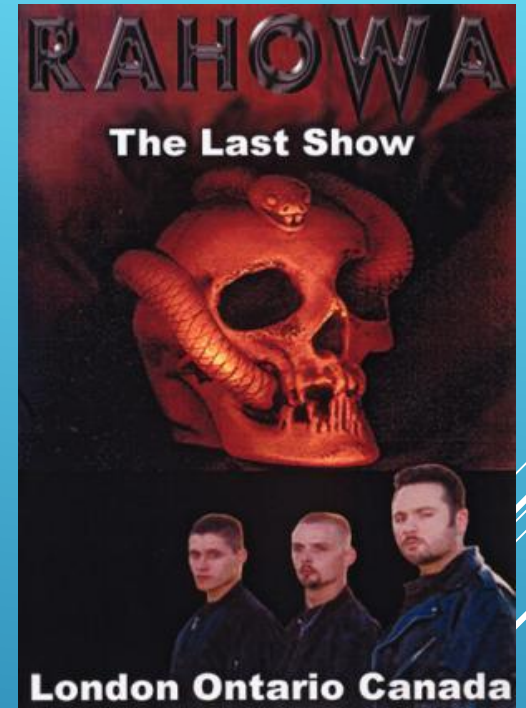
We must mobilize to expose and counter neo-Nazi organizing in our city and show that racism & hatred aren't welcome here.

Childcare & food will be available at Kytes.

Anti-Racist Action



George Burdi and RAHOWA



No Jews Allowed



Maclean's Magazine, November 1, 1948

A MILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS REPORTS TO HIM

Truck drivers and executives... clerks and clergettes... people of wealth and people of small means... every walk of life is represented by Canada's Shareholders... They are owners of every business they invest in. Each year *Business Reports* reports to them.

Business is built on the thrift, faith and far-sightedness of such Canadian men and women... For the invested savings or capital of Shareholders is "creative money"... Whether the investment is large or small, this "creative money" enables *Business Reports* to grow and prosper, to purchase new equipment and improve production... to provide more jobs, and more opportunities for workers and thus advance Canadian welfare and development.

One sign of a healthy business is the increasing number of people who have confidence in it. In 1928, for instance, the number of shareholders in *George Weston Limited* was 198. Today there are over 4500 shareholders... men and women from every walk of life... from every part of Canada... who are owners of *Weston's*.

Weston's

GEORGE WESTON LIMITED · TORONTO, CANADA

Maclean's NOVEMBER 1, 1948

No Jews Need Apply

By PIERRE BERTON

IN THIS wartime winter of 1942, when employers of all kinds were desperate for men, a young accountant named Norman Lyons, who had been rejected for military service on medical grounds, started looking for a job.

Lyons was sent by the Unemployment Insurance Commission to a large war plant in Toronto which needed several accountants. After an interview by company officials, he was told there were no vacancies.

He phoned the personnel manager of a second war plant, giving his qualifications in detail. The personnel man said he was looking for a man like Lyons—there was a timekeeper's job available and several accounts jobs open. When Lyons went around, the personnel man's face changed: Lyons wouldn't get the job, he said. The reason was long, the pay was low and he knew he wouldn't be interested. He didn't even bother to take Lyons' name and address.

Lyons tried a well-known accounting firm. The men he spoke to and his references, told him he'd have no trouble finding him immediately, and there was a crying need for men like him. Then, as an afterthought he asked: "By the way, Mr. Lyons, what is your religion?" When Lyons told him the company representative said sorry, there was nothing for him.

Lyons tried a second accounting firm. He was told: "There's no use busting about the bush. We don't employ Jews here."

The dilemma of Norman Lyons, who represents one of our most important minorities (there are more than 170,000 Jews in Canada, 1.5% of the population), has in the past half dozen years suddenly become a matter one topic of conversation. A rash of books, plays, movies and radio broadcasts has dealt with the problem of anti-Semitism. Because of "Creston's Agreement" and "Crowden" and "Earth and High Heaven," the people are being more talking and thinking about this particularly vicious expression of race prejudice than ever before. Has the situation, then, changed since Norman Lyons went out looking for a job?

How prejudice is a difficult thing to measure statistically, but Maclean's made a stab at it a month ago in an effort to find out what comparative job opportunities there were for Gentiles and Jews in a particular field.

Two experienced girls with similar backgrounds and training were selected to answer newspaper advertisements for stenographers, typists, bookkeepers and filing clerks. These occupations were chosen because they cut right across the industry, and business field from insurance companies to truck manufacturers and because there is no present or great shortage of experienced help in these particular fields.

One of the girls took the name of Greenberg, the other of Cohen. The girl with the down-sounding name phoned a prospective... *(Continued on page 53)*

Ghettos in Canada? Or pogroms? Hardly. But try looking for a job—in engineering, say—if your name is Greenberg

What is Hate?

“Hatred is predicated on destruction, and hatred against identifiable groups therefore thrives on insensitivity, bigotry and destruction of both the target group and of the values of our society. Hatred in this sense is a most extreme emotion that belies reason; an emotion that, if exercised against members of an identifiable group, implies that those individuals are to be despised, scorned, denied respect and made subject to ill-treatment on the basis of group affiliation.”

-- Chief Justice Brian Dickson, in *R v Keegstra* (1990)

Canadian Law and the limits of Free Speech

- The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
- *Hate crime* refers to criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred toward an identifiable group. In other words, any *criminal act* has the potential to be a hate crime if the hate motivation can be proven. In 1996, an amendment to the *Criminal Code* made hate motivation an aggravating factor as it related to sentencing, enshrining in law the precedent that hate motivation makes a crime more serious

Canadian Law and the limits of Free Speech

- *Hate propaganda*, the promotion of hatred against identifiable groups, became a criminal offense in Canada in 1970. Hate propaganda covers the following offenses:
- *s318(1) Advocating Genocide* (i.e. the intent to destroy in whole or in part, any identifiable group)
- *s319(1) Public Incitement of Hatred* (i.e. communication in public that is likely to lead to a breach of the peace)
- *s319(2) Wilful Promotion of Hatred* (communicating in a public place, including words spoken or written or recorded electronically or electromagnetically or otherwise, and gestures, signs or other visible representations).

Canadian Law and the limits of Free Speech

- Under s319, no charges can be laid for alleged offences without the consent of the provincial Attorney General. Until recently, this has meant that relatively few charges have been laid under this section .
- Neither antisemitism nor Holocaust denial are violations under the criminal code.
- Ernst Zundel (False News) 1985, 1988, 1992[SCC]
- Krymowski (Roma), 1997, 2003, 2005[SCC]
- Roy Arthur Topham, 2015

The Violent Right



The Violent Right



The Violent Right

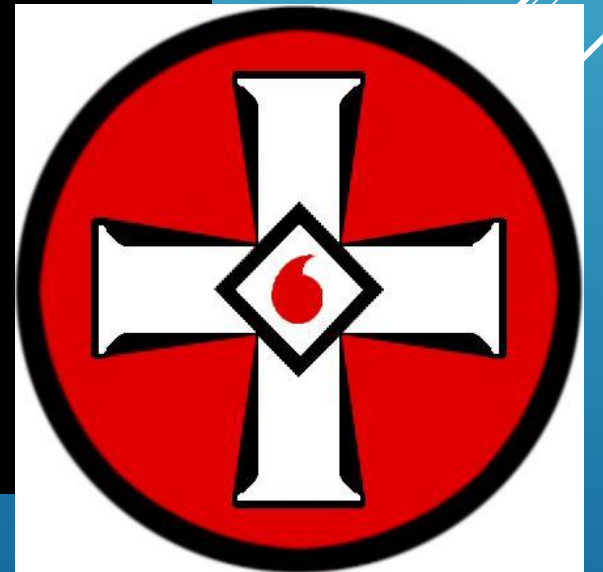


... and the Alt-Right



Source: cnbc.com

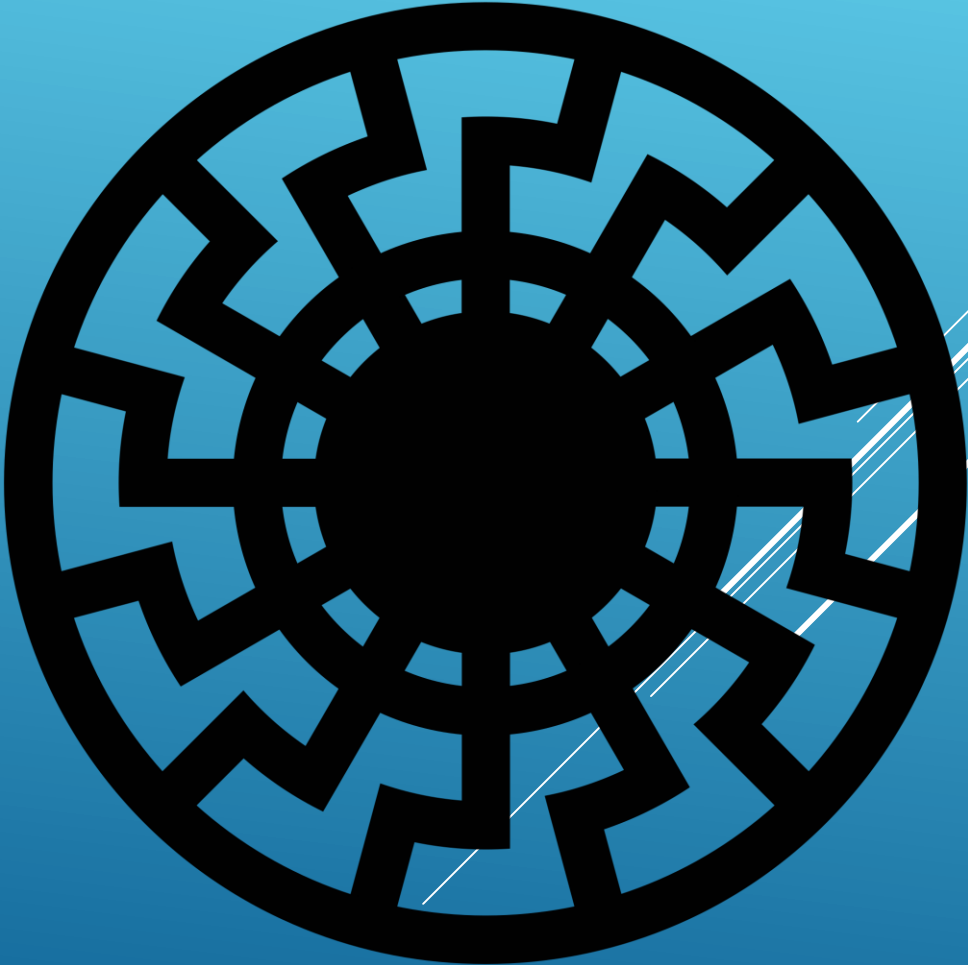
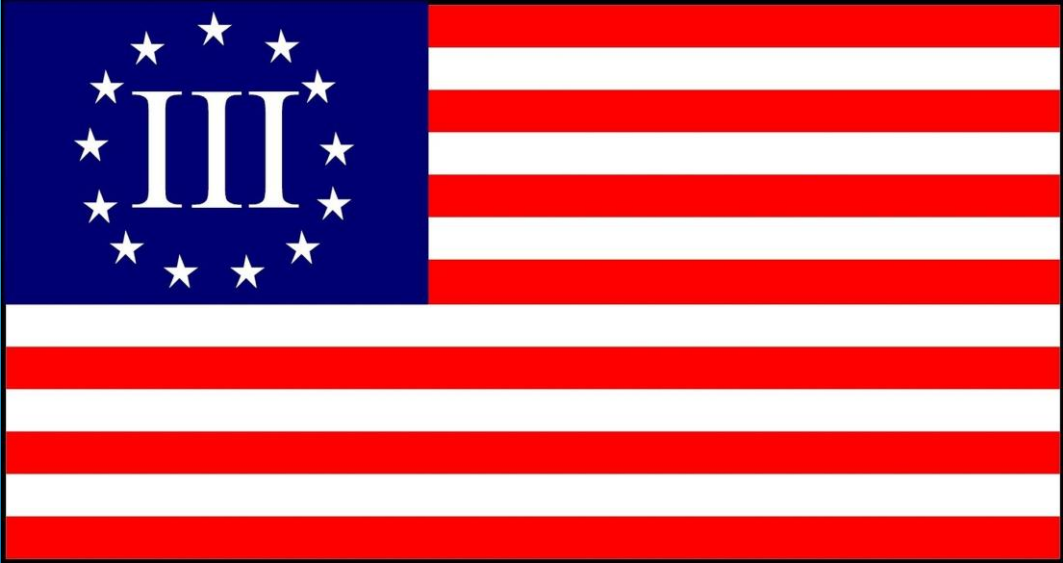
Branding



Rebranding



Rebranding



White Nationalism – Old School



White Nationalism – Old School



White Nationalism – Repackaged



White Nationalists – what to wear?



White Nationalists – Makeover!



You will not replace us



EXERCISE PROHIBITED FOR THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES



WHAT IS THE ALT-RIGHT

The alt-right is NOT a political group or a political orientation.

They hate Jews, Muslims, feminists (and often women generally), leftists, and anti-racist and anti-fascist activists, especially communists.

They want to establish a state just for whites by any means necessary.

According to the SPLC the alt-right movement in the United States can be linked to more than 90 murders in the United States .

On January 29th 2017, 6 Muslims were murdered in Quebec by Alexandre Bissonnette. Another University student identified Bissonnette as alt-right, and his online activity fits the alt-right profile.

WHAT IS THE ALT-RIGHT? CONT.

While the movement is only loosely organized, it has a public relations and media relations strategy. Thought-leaders in the alt-right have directed the movement to conceal its true agenda by disavowing the most obvious alt-right neo-Nazis.

“Talking openly about a white ethnostate only leads to failure and the average public turning against you, so disavow anyone who reveals his power level. Leftists will recognize dog whistles and know we’re crypto, but normies won’t listen to them.”

The alt-right targets young teenagers for recruitment and according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, “nearly two-thirds of respondents ages 15 to 35 had seen extremist messages within the past three months.”

THE ALT-RIGHT IN CANADA

In Canada, the alt-right is mostly comprised of young, white men who are in school or college/university educated.

For the most part, Canadian alt-right groups are not holding their own demonstrations. Instead they interact online, hold private events, and take part in anti-Muslim demonstrations.

Members of Toronto's alt-right have met on at least one occasion with Paul Fromm, perhaps Canada's most public neo-Nazi, and James Sears, who publishes the neo-Nazi paper *Your Ward News*.

ACTIVE GROUPS IN CANADA

According to research (Perry, Scrivens) there were more than 100 right wing extremist groups active in Canada in 2016

Pegida

Northern Guard

Soldiers of Odin

La Meute (Wolf Pack)

Proud Boys (sometimes thought of as the *alt-light*)

Those inspired by the Alt-Right – Alexandre Bissonnette, Alek Minassian

Canadian Nationalist Party

Technology and Recruitment.....



- Old Wine in new bottles
- Static to Dynamic
- Websites
- Social Media
- 4CHAN, 8CHAN
- Podcasts
- Telegram

You Don't have to be Hitler.....



It's important that we don't confuse the most extreme example of the problem with the definition of the problem itself.

To be a problem.....



Demagogues and Populists

Demagogue. A political leader who seeks support by appealing to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than by using rational argument.

Populist. A person, especially a politician, who strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups.

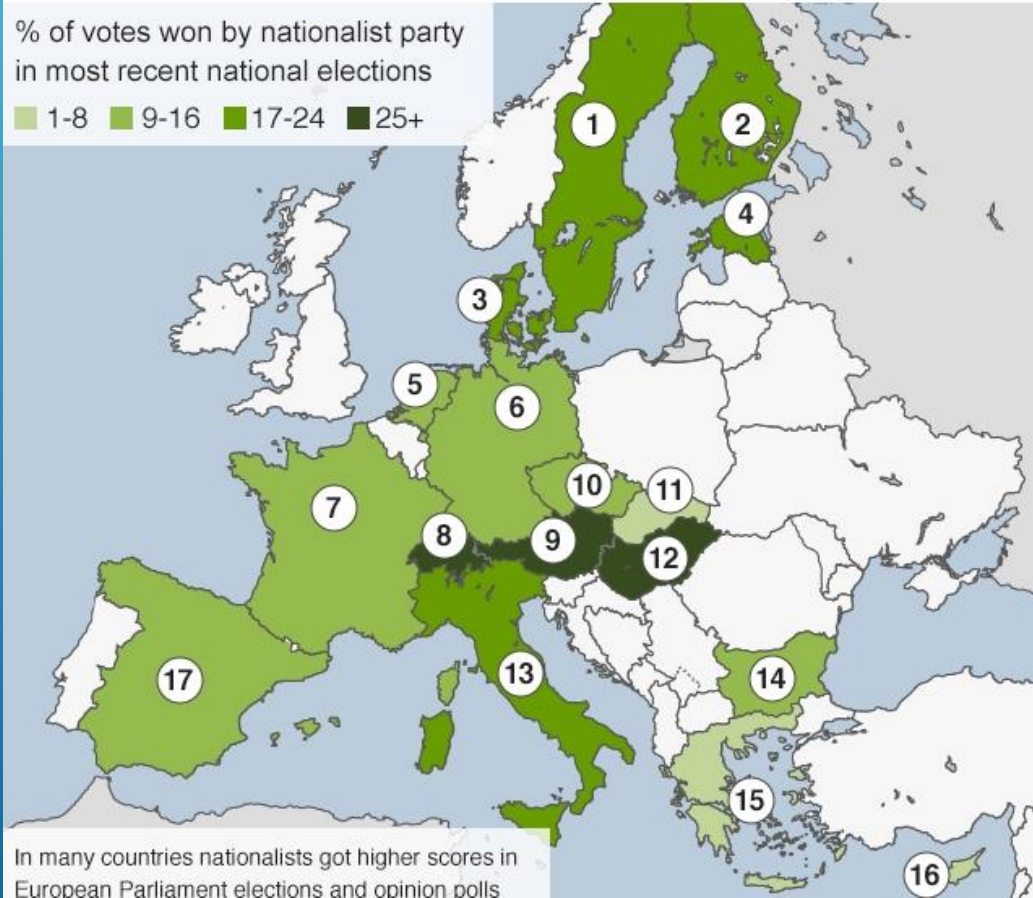
Nationalism. Identification with one's own nation and support for its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations.

Right Wing Nationalist Parties in Europe...

Rise of nationalism in Europe

% of votes won by nationalist party in most recent national elections

1-8 9-16 17-24 25+



① **Sweden**
Sweden Democrats **17.6%**

② **Finland**
The Finns **17.7%**

③ **Denmark**
Danish People's Party **21%**

④ **Estonia**
Conservative People's Party **17.8%**

⑤ **Netherlands**
Freedom Party **13%**

⑥ **Germany**
Alternative for Germany **12.6%**

⑦ **France**
National Rally **13%**

⑧ **Switzerland**
Swiss People's Party **29%**

⑨ **Austria**
Freedom Party **26%**

⑩ **Czech Republic**
Freedom and Direct Democracy **11%**

⑪ **Slovakia**
Our Slovakia **8%**

⑫ **Hungary**
Fidesz **49%**, Jobbik **19%**

⑬ **Italy**
The League **17.4%**

⑭ **Bulgaria**
United Patriots **9%**

⑮ **Greece**
Golden Dawn **7%**

⑯ **Cyprus**
ELAM **3.7%**

⑰ **Spain**
Vox **10.3%**

Last updated: April 2019

BBC


Our Response



Holocaust Education - why we need it

- 1 in 5 young Canadians either hasn't heard of the Holocaust or isn't sure what it was.
- Two-thirds of those surveyed either didn't know how many Jews were murdered or greatly underestimated the number.
- Nearly half of respondents couldn't name a single concentration camp.
- Must include a study of the roots of antisemitism.
- The moral dimension. What choices were available; what choices were taken.

But Not JUST Holocaust Education

- Jewish life as a living thing ... not as a death cult
 - Antisemitism recognized as a form of racism
 - Intersectionality and whiteness
 - Valjean and Javert
- 
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Towards a responsible Citizenry









1. The tapestry of a society unravels from its edges and that the strength of a society is determined by its willingness to defend the rights of individuals who are least able to defend themselves.

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2. While societies demonstrate a certain internal consistency in selecting their victims, any group is, given the right circumstances, a potential victim.



3. We must understand that victims must be separated from the larger society before they can be destroyed. This process begins with words that dehumanize, leads to acts of state that lop off the civil protections that citizens ought to enjoy, and culminates in physical destruction.



4. Conventional morality breaks down in the absence of identification with the victim.



5. Society plays a role in the authorization, mobilization and rationalization of evil.



Suggested Reading List

- Abella, Irving and Troper, Harold, None is Too Many (University of Toronto Press, 1982)
- Bialystok, Frank, Delayed Impact (McGill Queens University Press, 2001)
- Bronner, Stephen, A Rumour about the Jews (St. Martin's Press, 2000)
- Carroll, James, Constantine's Sword (Mariner Books, 2001)
- Charny, I, "The Psychological Satisfaction of Denials of the Holocaust or Other Genocides by Non-Extremists or Bigots, and Even by Known Scholars"
(<http://www.ideajournal.com/articles.php?id=27>)
- Cohn, Norman, Warrant for Genocide (Serif Publishing, 1966)
- Dan, Peter, "How Vampires Became Jewish" (<https://tinyurl.com/y8s69l6t>)

Suggested Reading List (cont'd)


- Hilberg, Raul. The Destruction of European Jewry (Holmes & Meier, 1985)
- Lipstadt, Deborah, Denying the Holocaust (Penguin, 1993)
- Nirenberg, David, Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition (Norton & Co., 2013)
- Rentschler, Eric, Ministry of Illusion (Harvard University Press, 1996)
- Rosenbaum, Alan (ed), Is The Holocaust Unique (Westview Press, 1998)
- Shermer, M & Grobman, A., Denying History (University of California Press, 2000)
- Snyder, Timothy, Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning Random House, 2015)
- Snyder, Timothy, Bloodlands (Basic Books, 2010)
- Tsesis, Alexander, Destructive Messages (New York University Press, 2002)

Suggested Reading List (cont'd)

- Wistrich, Robert, Hitler and the Holocaust (Modern Library, 2001)
 - Wistrich, Robert, The Longest Hatred (Schocken Books, 1994)
- 

Thank You

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