

KULANU:
The Fight Against
Antisemitism Today



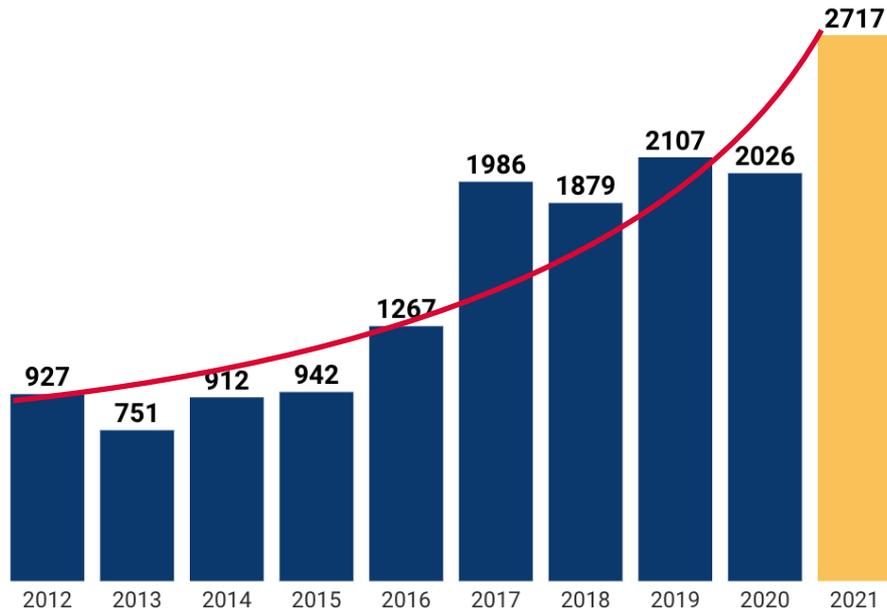
Vlad Khaykin

National Director of Programs on Antisemitism



Antisemitism at Highest Level on Record

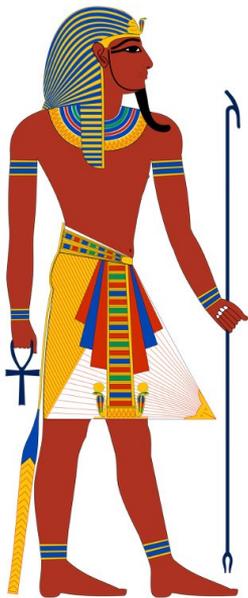
Antisemitic Incidents | U.S.
Ten Year Review | 2012–2021



← Highest level on record

1

Antisemitism Enduring



“The people of Israel have become too numerous among us ... If there should befall Egypt any war, they will join with our enemies and rise up against us.”
(Exodus 1:9–10)

“Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country/the countries they live in.”



41%



24%

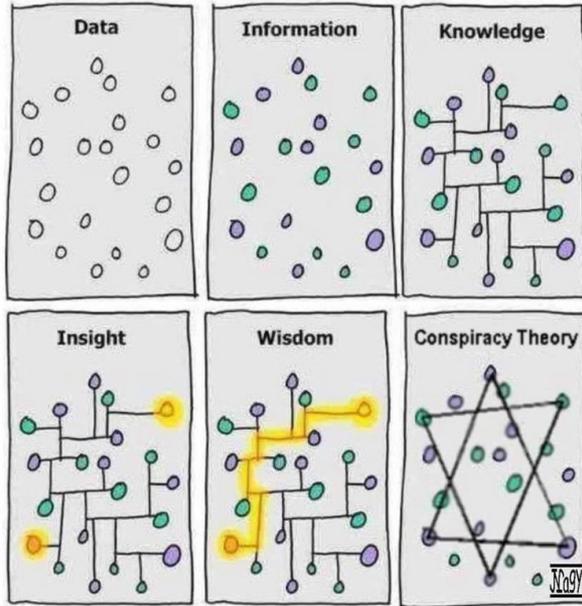
How Antisemitism Survives

- Survives by adapting to different social, political, religious contexts, taking the form that fits the milieu
- Embedding itself not merely in hearts and minds, but pervading institutions, systems, structures
- Built-in self-preservation mechanisms:
 - remedies confirm conspiracy theory;
 - logic of antisemitism makes it hard to recognize



2

Antisemitism is a Conspiracy Theory



Antisemitism is not mere prejudice, religious bigotry, or racial animus. ***Antisemitism often manifests as conspiracy theory.***

What is Distinct About Antisemitism?

Antisemitism alleges to punch up

Antisemitism often includes the belief that Jews have extraordinary power with which they conspire to harm or control those outside the Jewish community. It is frequently a motivation for scapegoating Jews as the cause of a variety of societal problems.

“Because modern antisemitic ideology traffics in fantasies of invisible power, it thrives precisely when its target would seem to be least vulnerable.”

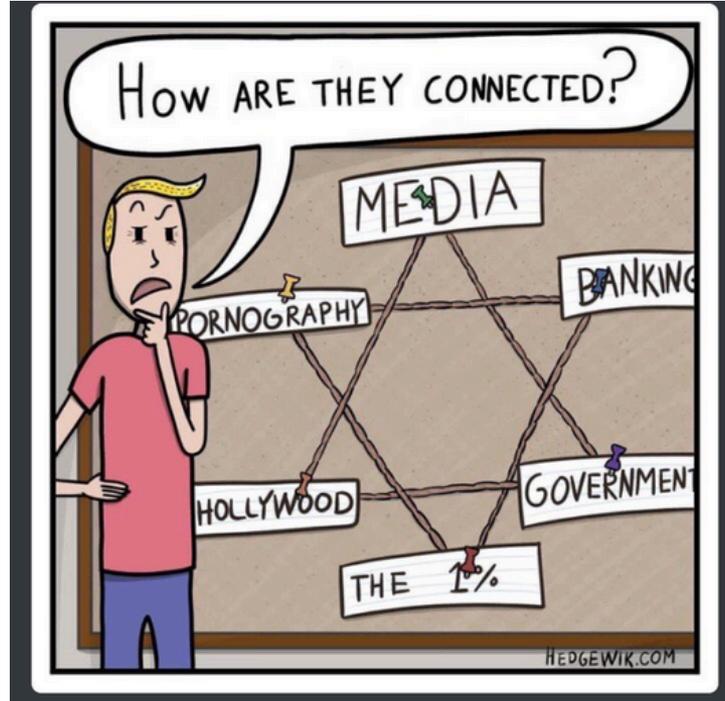
- Eric Ward



What is Distinct About Antisemitism?

“People who embrace conspiracy theories to explain their problems lose the ability to rationally solve them.”

- Yair Rosenberg, *The Atlantic*



3

Antisemitism is Often Political

- Antisemitism has no inherent political locus; wielded as a political tool, both on Left and Right
- Antisemitism must never be politicized



“If Jews are responsible for every perceived problem, then people with entirely opposite ideals can adopt it. And thanks to centuries of material blaming the world’s ills on the world’s Jews, conspiracy theorists seeking a scapegoat for their sorrows inevitably discover that the invisible hand of their oppressor belongs to an invisible Jew.”

– Yair Rosenberg, *The Atlantic*

Antisemitism is Adaptive



What is Distinct About Antisemitism?

Antisemitism employs a salvific narrative, uses the language of liberation, and presents itself as emancipatory politics.

This is true on the Left as it is on the Right.



4

Conscious and Overt or Unconscious and Implicit

- Something can be antisemitic in intent, form, or impact
- Can be antisemitic even when not animated by anti-Jewish animus
- Just because one does not intend harm does not mean no harm caused
- Antisemitism, like other bigotries, is part of the air we breathe – no one is immune

“I am antisemitic ... I have swallowed antisemitism by living here whether I wanted to or not.”

–Barbara Smith, Feminist author

5

Antisemitism is Not About Jews

- Antisemitism is a construct of the non-Jewish imagination
- “The Jew” of the antisemitic imagination is a caricature, a fantasy
- “The Jew” is often representative of the collective fears, anxieties, prejudices, and feelings of alienation, disenfranchisement, etc.



Ceci n'est pas un Juif

“Antisemitism has to do with what is projected onto Jews, not with the conduct of Jews themselves ... [it is] projection of what is intolerable inside oneself onto Jews.”

—Robert Fine, Sociologist

6

Antisemitism: A Canary in the Coal Mine



- Authoritarianism: erosion of democratic norms, institutions
- Anti-intellectualism; contempt for scholarship, science, expertise
- Proliferation of conspiracy theories
- Propagation of other forms of bigotry, xenophobia

"Antisemitism is the canary in the coal mine ... [It is] toxic to democracies ... a threat to all societies if left unaddressed."

—Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion, UN General Assembly, October 2019

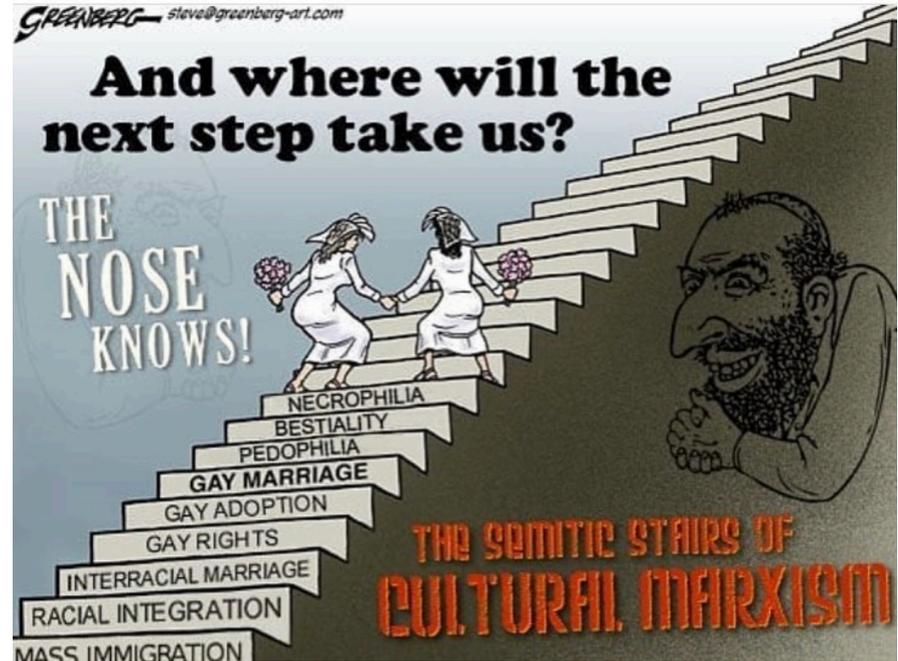
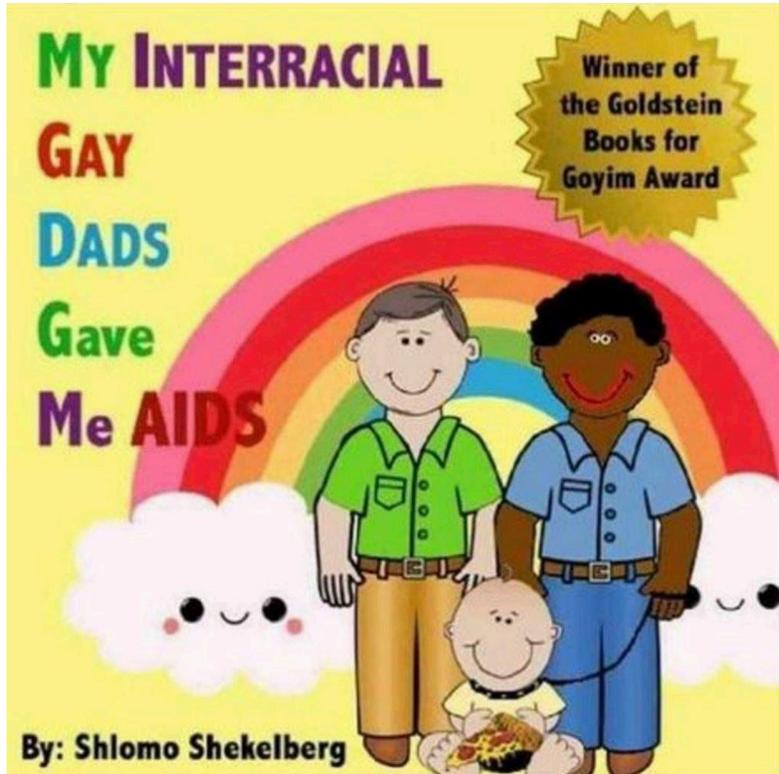
Antisemitism and White Supremacy



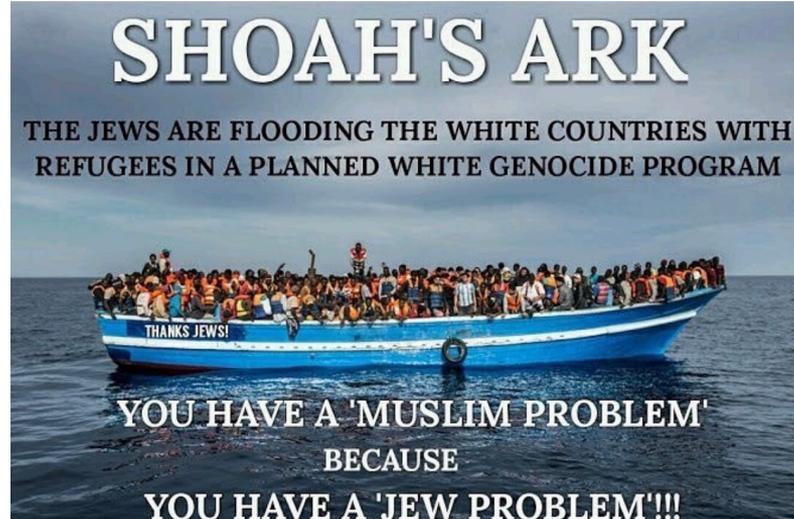
“Antisemitism is anti-Black.”

Eric Ward
Western States Center,
SPLC

Antisemitism and White Supremacy



Antisemitism and White Supremacy



Antisemitism and White Supremacy

The New York Times

11 Killed in Synagogue Massacre; Suspect Charged With 29 Counts

Pittsburgh residents embraced near Tree of Life Congregation. Calling it the "most horrific crime..."

Oct 27, 2018



CNN

49 killed in mass shooting at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand

(CNN) At least 49 people were killed and 20 seriously injured in mass shootings at two



The New York Times

El Paso Shooting: Massacre That Killed 20 Being Investigated as Domestic Terrorism

El Paso Shooting: Massacre That Killed 20 Being Investigated as Domestic ... Seitz is an influential figure in El Paso, a heavily Catholic and Latino city.

Aug 4, 2019



The New York Times

10 People Killed and 3 Wounded in Shooting at a Buffalo Supermarket

10 people are killed and 3 are wounded in a mass shooting at a Buffalo grocery ... almost all of them Black, in one of the deadliest racist massacres in...

May 17, 2022

