



Why Now, Why Here: The Rise of Anti-Semitism in the United States

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American Exceptionalism

- America: No State Sponsored anti-Semitism
- Constitutional and Legal Protections
- Culture of Inclusion and the Celebration of Diversity

Hate in America

- Fringe Groups on the Edge
- Waves or Periods of Religious Prejudice and Racial Hatred

Anti-Semitism in America: ADL Findings

541 Incidents in the First Quarter of 2017 (harassment, assaults and vandalism)

1266 Incidents reported in 2016

California:	211 (2016)	87 (2017)
New York:	199 (2016)	97 (2017)
New Jersey:	157 (2016)	24 (2017)
Florida:	137 (2016)	41 (2017)
Massachusetts:	125 (2016)	38 (2017)

14 percent of Americans expressed anti-Semitic attitudes, an increase from 10 percent over 2015 numbers.



Global anti-Semitism

ADL's 2014 international study discovered that 25% of the more than 4 billion world citizens held anti-Jewish attitudes

Perspectives About Today's Anti-Semitism

- A world without anti-Semitism is a non-starter.
- There has been a fundamental historical misreading and assessment of the growth and presence of anti-Semitism on the world stage.
- The early Zionists contended that once a Jewish State would be established, threats against Jews would dissipate, as Jews would be seen as a part of a “normal” civilization, operating among the nations.

Treating Anti-Semitism

- **Strategy:** Marshaling public opinion to marginalize and reject prejudicial actions and messages.
- **Targets:** Education and Civic Elites; Business and Labor Leaders; Government and Public Officials; Religious and Ethnic Figures
- **Tools:** Education-Exposure-Experience

Traditional Management of Anti-Semitism

- Anti-Jewish behavior formally defined as “anti-Semitism” in Germany, 1870’s
- Anti-Semitism was “treated” as if it were a disease, terms such as “Containment” and “Isolation” were introduced.
- Jewish “behavior” was seen as a contributing factor, even by Jews.

Sociological Data: But is America Changing?

- There remains a small “hard-core” element of anti-Semites
- Significant number of people who are not hard-core but who are susceptible to anti-Semitic rhetoric and action
- The higher the level of one’s education, the lower the level of anti-Semitism, but is this factor still true?
- Younger people are less prejudiced than older persons; this finding may no longer be accurate!

Current Trends: The Presence of New Threats

- Cyber-Hate
- Anti-Semitism without Jews
- Mystical Image of the Jew
- Anti-Israelism

New Behaviors

- Today, one finds an array of “hidden haters” who have generally avoided significant public attention.
- Has it become “politically correct” to bash Jews and other minority communities. Is this as a result of “social media”; the political climate; or other factors?
- The return to nativism, a dangerous threat to minorities in general, and to Jews in particular. The rise of the Alt-Right.

The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism

- Western civilization is seen as an orchestrated effort by the Judeo-Christian elites to conquer, control and minimize the Islamic world.
- Judaism and the Jewish people are seen as the embodiment of everything that is corrupt and threatening to the Muslim enterprise.
- Throughout time, Jews and Judaism have been viewed as primary threats or impediments to the general welfare of Western culture.

The New Variations

- Conspiracy theories and the misrepresentation of historical events have resulted in the creation of new forms of political hate and anti-Semitic practice, i.e. holocaust deniers.
- Anti-Semitism today is seen as a form of class warfare. Jews are seen as a political threat to the advancement and standing of other ethnic and social groups.
- The imposition of terms and definitions that once described the Nazis and their assault on Jews is being employed today by anti-Jewish forces, and more directly by anti-Israel groups.

BDS and anti-Israelism

- “Zionism as Racism”
- The “new Nazis” are represented by the State of Israel
- Neutralize and discount Nazi atrocities as actions not without merit
- Intersectionality and anti-Semitism

Jews and Power

- If historically Jews were seen as powerless, then in this current scenario, Jews are described as an influential and powerful polity.
- Jewish power is specifically seen as being employed in defense of a pariah nation and on behalf of corrupted Western interests and values.
- The current war on the Jewish people must be understood as a precursor to the intended broader assault on the West.

The European Condition

- The “new Europe” was constructed to marginalize the imprint of nationalism and in turn the scourge of religious intolerance.
- In framing this new European economic and political model, its creators failed to introduce a culture of pluralism.
- Two forms of anti-Semitism merging: Traditional European and Immigrant Imported anti-Semitism

Tactics Employed to Attack and Isolate Jews, Israel and Judaism

1. Advancing boycotts, sanctions and disinvestment (BDS) campaigns
2. Introducing one-sided resolutions
3. Framing hate messages and attacks against Israel, Jews, and Judaism
4. Justifying and even sanctioning physical attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions
5. Introducing in the international media and cyberspace misleading headlines, defamatory cartoons, and stories inaccurately portraying Israel and its policies
6. Promoting conspiracy theories about Jews and the State of Israel, while maintaining the mantra of Holocaust denial.

Three Themes Define This New Anti-Semitism

- Theological anti-Semitism
- Genocidal anti-Semitism
- Political anti-Semitism
- Ideological anti-Semitism

Characteristics	Traditional anti-Semitism	Global anti-Semitism
<i>Individual vs. collective</i>	Traditional anti-Semitism involved at any given time a specific target.	The new forms of anti-Jewish activity are directed at the collective enterprise: <i>Israel, peoplehood, and Judaism.</i>
<i>Local-national vs. global</i>	Historically, one could identify localized and at times nationally inspired and directed, anti-Semitic behaviors.	The new anti-Semitism is not directed at specific Jews in a particular setting but at the perception of Jewish power and influence.
<i>Targeted forms of anti-Semitism vs. a broad assault on Israel and Jews</i>	Traditional anti-Semites acted against specific Jewish targets to symbolize the general hatred of the Jewish people.	The emphasis is on making global and multiple accusations against the Jewish people, Judaism, and Israel, and initiating coordinated actions against these targets.
<i>Separate considerations vs. linked purposes</i>	Anti-Semites tended to be devoted to their specific cause	Incorporate an anti-Israeli focus in their attacks on U.S. policies.



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