

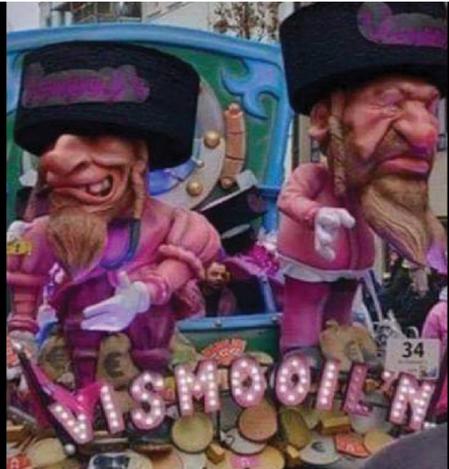
# Antisemitic Beliefs

Examples of the  
“World’s Oldest Hatred”

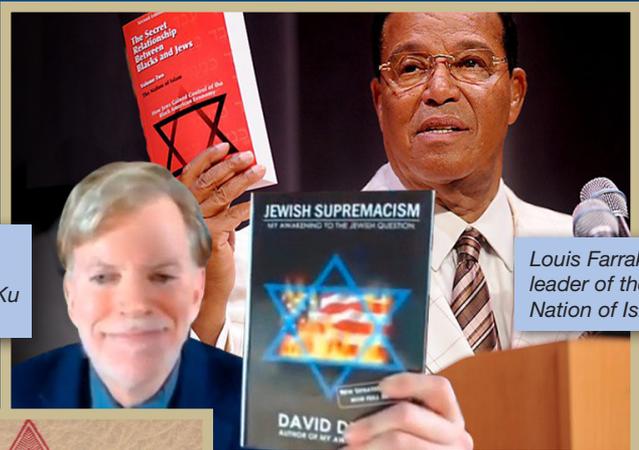
**Nazi Germany 1930s**



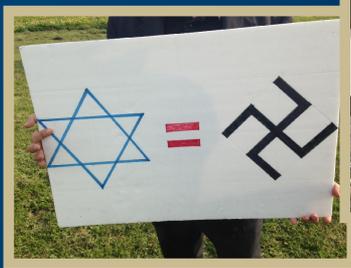
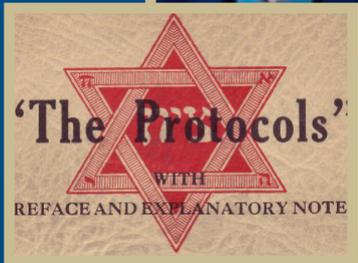
**Belgium 2019**



David Duke,  
former Grand  
Wizard of the Ku  
Klux Klan



Louis Farrakhan,  
leader of the  
Nation of Islam



Rutgers University professor, Michael Chikindas was suspended for posting dozens of antisemitic and anti-Israel comments and images on Facebook, including this cartoon.



Antisemitism—hatred against Jews—is an ancient prejudice that has appeared in many different societies and comes from across the political spectrum. As a result, there are a wide variety of words, phrases, images, and ideas used to spread antisemitism around the world. Some use such rhetoric because they are ignorant, while others use it out of genuine hatred.

Antisemitic slurs and conspiracy theories that originated many centuries ago have survived and mutated into modern antisemitism. One of the unique elements of this hatred is that it remains popular no matter how many times it has been disproved. Antisemitic literature, such as the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, is still in print despite being unequivocally rejected by scholars from all over the world.

The purpose of this booklet is to educate about some of the most common antisemitic rhetoric you may hear. We hope this (non-exhaustive) list helps you identify antisemitism so that you can speak out and act when you encounter it online and in your community.

The Crucifix and the Calvary (1657), a sculpture in Prague, features Hebrew text added in 1696, “which represents a very important expression of faith in the Jewish tradition. The Hebrew writing was added in order to humiliate the Jewish community.”



## Jews AND RELIGION

### Christ Killers

The claim that Jews bear a collective guilt for the killing of Jesus is one of the most influential antisemitic slurs in history. For centuries, this accusation was used in order to mobilize European peasants to participate in pogroms (massacres) against Jews. It is still used today by Christian fundamentalists and antisemites seeking to exploit religious sentiments.

### Ritual Impurity

The claim that Jews are ritually unclean and “filthy” was maintained by Catholicism for hundreds of years. Believers were warned that Jews would desecrate the host (Catholic sacramental bread) if they were allowed near it. Within Shia Islam, many still believe that Jews are ritually unclean and fear the transmission of impurity.



### Satanism and Demons

Some antisemites claim that Jews worship Satan. Louis Farrakhan is known for using the term “Satanic Jews.” Other antisemitic claims portray Jews as demonic and inhuman.

The 14th century “Jew pig” sculpture, Germany, depicts Jews who are suckling from a pig and eating its excrement. These dangerous antisemitic scenes still exist in Europe today in numerous churches, mocking both Jews and Judaism.



*Simon of Trent blood libel. Illustration in Hartmann Schedel's Weltchronik, 1493*

## Blood Libel

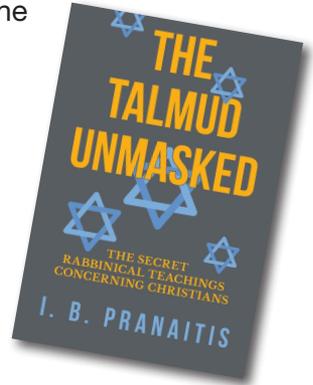
The blood libel is an ancient antisemitic myth that persisted through medieval times well into the modern era. Jews are accused of abducting Christian children during Passover in order to use their blood in the making of matzos bread. This libel led to massacres against Jews in Europe and later spread to the Middle East.

## Host Desecration

An antisemitic Catholic claim that Jews try to steal the sacrament host (a wafer used for religious rituals) of the eucharist in order to desecrate it.

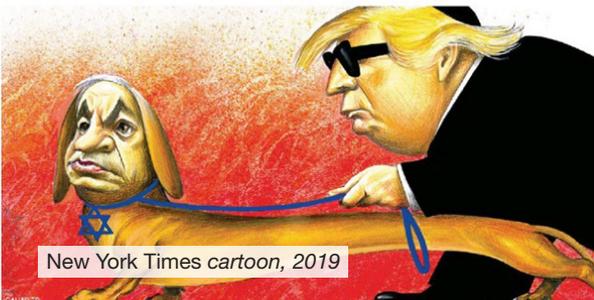
## TALMUDIC SECRET PASSAGES

A common antisemitic accusation is that the Jewish religious texts of the Talmud contain secret passages that instruct Jews on how to spread moral corruption and dominate the world. In July 2019, Louis Farrakhan claimed the Talmud promotes pedophilia and sex trafficking.



*The Talmud Unmasked, a book supposedly illustrating some of the Talmud's hidden texts, 1892.*

## JEWISH POWER CONSPIRACY THEORIES



*New York Times cartoon, 2019*

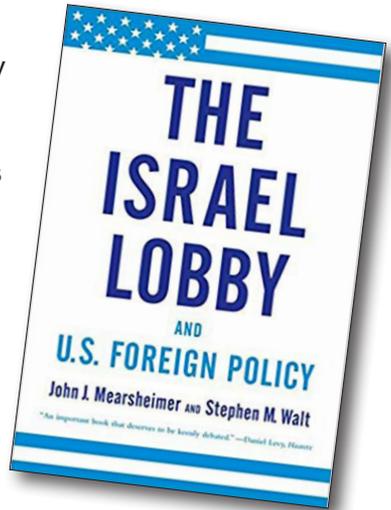
## Jews control the U.S. and other governments

One of the most common antisemitic claims is that Jews control various world governments, including the United States. This

conspiracy theory originated in Europe and then spread to the Arab world and beyond. In 2019, for example, the international *New York Times* published a cartoon showing the Israeli prime minister wearing a Jewish star collar leading a blind American president.

**The “Jewish Lobby”**

This is the claim that Jews collectively form a powerful interest group that controls U.S. policy. Various Jewish organizations, groups, and individuals are portrayed as members of a vast “Jewish lobby” representing “Jewish interests.” This conspiracy theory is common in both far left and far right circles. A prominent example is Congressional Rep. Ilhan Omar strongly insinuating that members of Congress only support Israel in order to receive Jewish money.



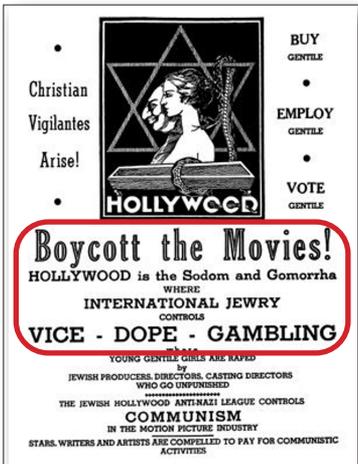
The *Israel Lobby*, by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, describes a “loose coalition of individuals and organizations who actively work to steer U.S. foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction.”

**Jews control media**

This is the claim that Jews completely control the production and distribution of media, including news and entertainment. This alleged sole control is supposedly used in order to further a “Jewish agenda” and “Jewish interests.”

**Jews control Hollywood**

This claim is that Jews own and control the motion picture industry and use it in order to promote “Jewish propaganda.” It is a historical fact that Jewish investors and movie makers were some of the earliest founders of the movie industry. Rhetoric becomes antisemitic when it assumes that Jews in Hollywood are a monolith and have collectively worked toward the same nefarious agenda.



Leaflet, 1938

## **Jews control world financial institutions**

The claim that Jews control banks, investment funds, and all international financial and monetary institutions might have originated in medieval Europe, where Jews were forced into banking and tax collection jobs, and it evolved as some Jews excelled in financial professions during and after the 19th century. A modern version of this theory is the claim that Jews control Wall Street.

## **Jews are behind Communism**

The claim that Jews are responsible for creating and promoting Marxist theories and variants thereof was popular during the Cold War era and was one of the original accusations in the *Protocols of Zion*. It is still popular among far right groups in the U.S.

## **Jews are behind Capitalism**

The conspiracy theory that Jews are responsible for capitalism and the exploitation of the working class for their own gain is directly tied to the accusation that Jews control the world's finances and is more popular among socialist and anti-capitalist circles. It gained traction within the UK Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn, within the far left in the U.S., and elsewhere.

## **Jews instigate the world's wars and revolutions**

This is an original conspiracy theory from the *Protocols*, which claims that Jews control all sociopolitical revolutionary movements and are responsible for starting wars around the world. For example, some on the far left and far right blame Jews for the Iraq War.



Nazi propaganada poster, "Behind the Enemy Powers: The Jew," 1941

## Jews promote non-white immigration

This claim, otherwise known as the “great replacement,” is a conspiracy theory popular among far right, white supremacist, and neo-Nazi groups. It claims that Jews are trying to replace the white race in certain nations by promoting immigration of non-white races such as Latin Americans and Muslims.

In 2017, participants in a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, VA, chanted “Jews will not replace us,” and Republican Congressman Steve King has promoted the “great replacement” theory.

## Jews or Israel staged 9/11

One of the most common conspiracy theories around the 9/11 terrorist attacks is that they were the result of a Jewish or Israeli plot. The antisemitic theory claims Jewish workers at the twin towers were given advance notice and did not show up to work that day. In fact, however, many Jews died in the attacks. Another false claim is that the FBI arrested Mossad agents in connection with the attack.



Leaflet, 1950s



## Jews poison wells

This accusation was common in medieval Europe. In a pre-scientific society, the spread of disease wasn't understood, so it was attributed to water poisoning, which was then blamed on the Jews. As a result, Jews were often held responsible for spreading the Black Plague and massacred in many places across Europe.



Ilhan Omar  
@IlhanMN

Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel. #Gaza #Palestine #Israel

11/16/12, 11:15 AM

## Jews have evil magical powers

This claim attributes magical, persuasive powers to the Jews that they use in order to exploit others. Congressional Rep. Ilhan Omar used this trope on Twitter claiming, "Israel has hypnotized the world."

## Jews are responsible for the slave trade

This antisemitic theory can be found in the literature of the Nation of Islam, which is led by Louis Farrakhan, and has spread antisemitism in the black community. It seeks to blame Jews collectively for the sin of slavery in America.

## Jews are connected to reptilian aliens that control the world

This was spread by conspiracy theorist David Icke, who has written several books claiming the world is controlled by reptilians. He connects this to the antisemitic *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which he claims is real rather than a forgery.



## JEWS AND MORALITY

### Jews spread immorality

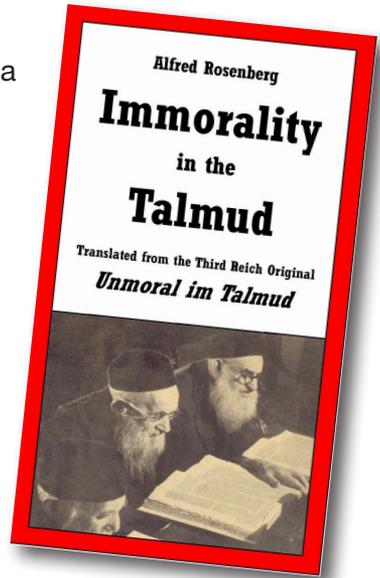
This antisemitic claim was made in the *Protocols* as well as in Nazi propaganda and persists to this day. Jews, as master conspirators preoccupied with the destruction of civilization, allegedly try to systematically erode the moral foundations of a society.

### Jews control the porn industry

Some conspiracy theories alleged that Jews, as agents of immorality, are responsible for the pornography industry and use it as a Jewish tool to spread moral corruption. This claim has been made by Louis Farrakhan, Aljazeera, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

### Jews spread drugs

This trope is a part of the conspiracy theory that Jews spread immorality. Current Neo-Nazi groups accuse Jews of trying to get Americans addicted to drugs.



Nazi propaganada book,  
1943

## AFTONBLADET

Kultur

### "Our sons are plundered of their organs"

PUBLICERAD: ONS 26 AUG 2009  
UPPDATERAD: TOR 10 MAR 2011

📄 Detta är en kulturartikel som är en del av Aftonbladets opinionsjournalistik.

KULTUR

Palestinians accuse the Israel Defense Forces of taking organs from their victims. Donald Boström writes about an international organ trafficking scandal – and about the time he saw the cut-up dead body of a nineteen-year old Palestinian.

### Jews harvest and sell organs for profit

A common antisemitic trope among Palestinians and European anti-Israeli activists is that Israel systematically

harvests the organs of Palestinian prisoners for profit. In 2009, Sweden's largest daily newspaper, *Aftonbladet*, ran an article accusing Israel of harvesting Palestinian organs.

## DEMONIZATION, DEHUMANIZATION, STEREOTYPES

### Jews are inhuman, satanic, animal-like (snakes, rats, pigs, etc.)

Claims that Jews are inhuman—either demonic or animal-like—were common in medieval Europe. Nazi propaganda portrayed Jews as vermin. Today, in the Arab world, one of the most common slurs for Jews is that they are “apes and pigs.” Louis Farrakhan has likened Jews to termites.

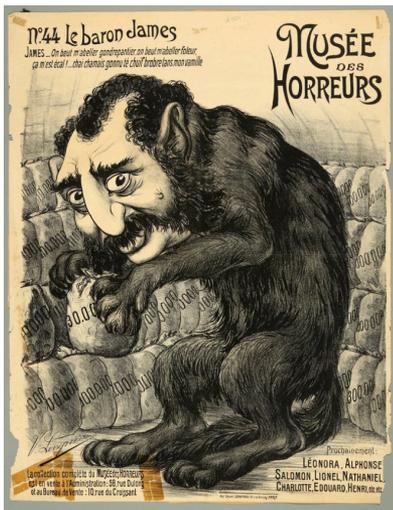


### Jews are vampires

One of the oldest antisemitic claims is that Jews require blood in their rituals, which has led to Jews being called vampires.

### Jews are white supremacists/Nazis

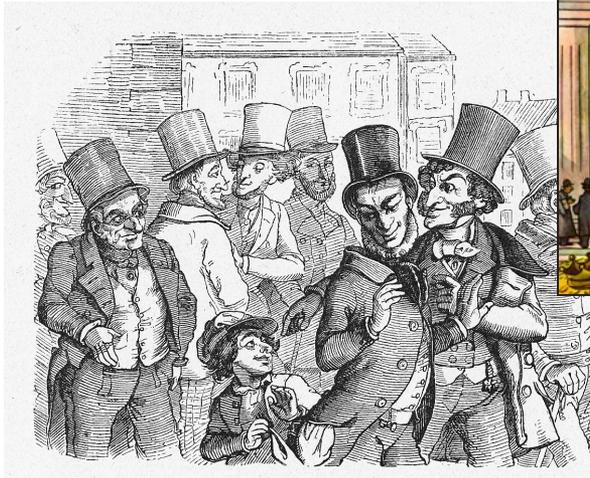
Some in far left and radical Islamist circles accuse Jews of being white supremacists or even Nazis. Often this is directed at Jews who support Israel's existence. Sometimes it is also connected to the idea that Jews are white people who benefit from white privilege—and by extension perpetuate white supremacy.



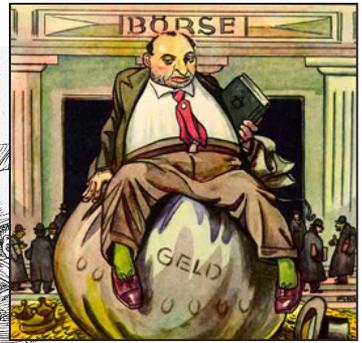
French caricature of a prominent Jew as a dog hoarding money, 1900

### Jews are ugly/have “hook noses”

This is an antisemitic stereotype that originated in Europe and has persisted to this day. Antisemitic cartoons in Nazi Germany frequently depicted Jews as ugly people with distinctively large noses. White supremacist groups and others frequently spread similar imagery on social media today.



German caricature of Jewish speculators, 1851



The cartoon's caption reads, "The God of the Jews is Money. And to gain money, he will commit the greatest crimes. He will not rest until he can sit on the largest sack of money, until he becomes the King of Money."  
—Der Gifpitz, (Germany 1938)

### **Jews are rich/greedy/cheap**

Stereotypes about Jews and money originated in medieval Europe when Jews were forced into banking and tax collection jobs, and these stereotypes evolved as some Jews excelled in financial professions during and after the 19th century. It is true that today American Jews are more financially successful than many other groups on average, but it is also true that 30% of Jews in New York live in poverty. Thus, stereotypes about Jews and money dehumanize and ignore the experiences of millions of people.

### **Jews are lazy**

The accusation that Jews are lazy parasites who feed on the work of others is common in both far-right and far-left propaganda.

### **Jews oppress people of color**

In recent decades the claim that Jews (or Israel) are collectively responsible for the oppression of people of color in the United States has become common in some far left and minority activist circles. Some of this rhetoric is based on genuine tensions between Jewish and black communities in places like New York, and legitimate grievances against specific Jews are used to brand Jewish people as a whole. In other cases it is classic antisemitism, falsely blaming Jews for larger social injustices.

### **Jews are people of color/non-white imposters**

White supremacist groups use this derogatory claim in order to portray Jews as impure intruders and enemies of the white race.

## ISRAEL

### **Israel is a racist, apartheid state**

This false claim is used in order to portray Israel as a race-based, white supremacist state that persecutes Palestinians as people of color. It is used to frame Israel as a representation of the greatest evils in the world, similar to the way classic antisemitism portrays Jews.

### **Israel has no right to exist**

The denial of Israel's right to exist and the Jewish right to self-determination is identified as a feature of antisemitism disguised as anti-Zionism.

### **Zionism is Nazism/Israelis are Nazis/"Zionazis"**

This antisemitic claim aims to demonize Zionism, or support for the State of Israel, which includes the liberation movement of the Jewish people, by portraying it as a racial and genocidal ideology. This is often accompanied by false accusations that Israel is perpetrating a Holocaust or genocide against Palestinians, thus turning historic crimes against Jews into ammunition for antisemitic propaganda.



invaded an Arab homeland ignores the historical origins of the Jewish people in the land of Israel as well as the continuous Jewish presence in the land for over 3,000 years.



*A poster advertising "Israeli Apartheid Week," an annual series of university lectures and events*

### **Jews are interlopers/ invaders/colonizers**

This accusation that Jews have no connection to the land of Israel and that they



## DUAL LOYALTY AND FOREIGNERS

### **Jews are not loyal to their home country**

Jews are accused of forming a global collective that is only loyal to itself and of being more loyal to the “Jewish” interest than they are to their own countries. This accusation is sometimes accompanied by claims that Jews are foreigners and not genuine members of the nations or societies in which they reside. These accusations were common in Europe during the rise of European nationalism and persist to this day. Prominent Democratic and Republican politicians in the U.S. have used antisemitic rhetoric about Jewish loyalty.

### **Jews are traitors**

This antisemitic accusation is connected to claims about Jewish disloyalty/dual loyalty. In the late 19th century, it was responsible for the Dreyfus Affair in France.



*Jewish refugees from Yemen, 1949*



Mahmoud Abbas

## HOLOCAUST

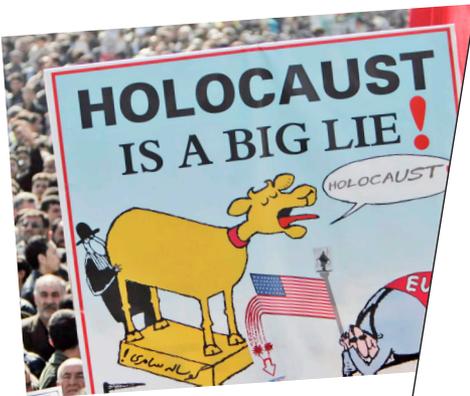
### Holocaust Denial and Holocaust Conspiracy Theories

One of the most common antisemitic conspiracy theories today is that the Holocaust never happened, was exaggerated, or was supported by Zionists. This accusation is made in some circles in the West and more widely in the Middle East. The Iranian regime runs an annual competition for cartoons that deny the Holocaust.

Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority, accused Zionists of collaborating with Nazis in order to murder Jews in preparation for establishing the state of Israel.

### Jews exploit the Holocaust for gain

Part of the phenomenon of Holocaust denial, antisemites in the West and the Middle East claim that Jews emphasize the Holocaust or exaggerate it in order to exploit Western feelings of guilt.



**DAILY BEAST**

## Iran's Holocaust Cartoon Competition

| NEVER FORGET |

Iran is yet again hosting a 'Holocaust Cartoons Contest.' It is a reminder of just how powerful the medium is, as well as how important freedom of speech remains.

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