

HATE IN THE TIME OF CORONA

ANTISEMITISM: AN OLD VIRUS RESURFACES



Coronavirus has spread to every continent, infecting millions of people and killing in the hundreds of thousands.

Yet, some people have a ready explanation of who brought the virus upon the world.

Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, Jordanian columnists, the Iranian government, Turkish politicians, and far Leftists all blame the same source:

The Jews.



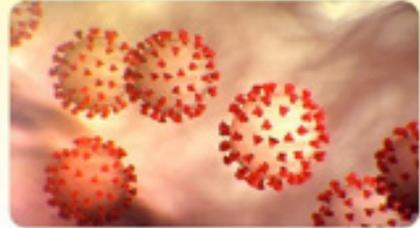
“The coronavirus is an instrument of the Third World War that has unleashed Yankee Zionist imperialism. The Anglo-Saxon capitalist and Zionist elite that is the enemy of all Humanity has taken a further step in its criminal and genocidal offensive.”

— *Kaos en la Red*
Far-Left Spanish Website

White Supremacist David Duke:



David Duke @DrDavidDuke · 4d
Does president Donald Trump have coronavirus? Are Israel and the Global Zionist elite up to their old tricks?
davidduke.com/thursday200312/



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Neo-Nazi sticker in Germany



“The Most Dangerous Virus To Humanity” – cartoon in a Palestinian Gazan newspaper

Blaming the Jews: An old story

In the 14th century, an epidemic broke out in Mongolia, spread to China and then along the Silk Route to Crimea. From there it came to Europe in fleas living on rats travelling on traders' ships. It killed an estimated 75 to 200 million people in Europe and Asia, peaking between 1347 to 1351.

It was *Yersinia pestis*, a bacterium that infects humans and causes three forms of plague: pneumonic, septicemic, and bubonic. It is remembered as the Black Plague, the worst pandemic in recorded history.

Unfounded rumors began that "the Jews" had caused the plague by poisoning wells. Soon, terrified populations accepted the rumors as "fact."

The Pope declared the Jews were not responsible. Kings ordered that the Jews be left alone. These pleas were ignored. Religious extremists and opportunists all fed into mass hysteria that became a perfect storm of hate. Throughout Europe, but mainly in the Rhineland, hundreds of Jewish communities were obliterated, and thousands of Jews were murdered. On Valentine's Day 1349, over 2,000 Jews were burnt alive in Strasbourg, France.

This area was where most Jews lived in Europe. The massacres and expulsions destroyed these communities almost completely. Most survivors moved eastward to Poland, becoming the kernel of the great eastern European Yiddish Jewish world.

This was the Middle Ages, before modern scientists understood that viruses and bacteria cause disease. At the time, superstition filled the void.



A 14th century drawing depicting Jews being burnt alive during the Black Plague.

Nazi Germany: “The Jewish Parasite”

In the 20th century, Nazi ideology categorized Jews as *Gegenrasse*, German for “Anti-race.” The Nazis imagined Jews to be the most bitter and eternal enemy of white people. Nazi propaganda portrayed “the Jew” as a dehumanized disease-carrying parasite contaminating the essence of a healthy world destined to be ruled by the *Herrenvolk*, the white “Master Race.”



“The Jew as World Parasite” “Guidelines” published for the German Army

The goal of this propaganda was to dehumanize Jews in public opinion. Including this imagery in an army manual is designed to indoctrinate soldiers into the extermination project. This classification of a group as an inherent enemy that is sub-human is common to the process leading to genocide. The 20th century witnessed many genocides against different groups: Armenians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Jews, Cambodians, Kurds, Bosnian Muslims, Tutsis. In each instance the perpetrators used dehumanizing images of their intended victims to make murdering them seem rational.

Palestinian and Iranian cartoonists continue the “tradition,” using the coronavirus pandemic to dehumanize Jews and Israel.



The hashtag #COVID1948 was created to compare Israel with the coronavirus. It gained popularity on Twitter and other social media.



Despite the UN having praised Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in combatting the pandemic, the Palestinian Authority’s official newspaper, Al-Hayat al-Jadida, published this cartoon.



Holocaust denial and Holocaust inversion combined the #COVID1948 hashtag create an extremely antisemitic message.



Iran’s Health Ministry held a coronavirus cartoon contest, published them online. It contained many antisemitic drawings, including these two, blaming Jews for causing the pandemic.

With the spread of coronavirus came a surge in anti-Asian racism online, new research says

By Leah Asmelash, CNN

Updated 10:00 AM EDT April 10, 2020

This time both Jews and Asian Americans are targets

Jews are not the only people being falsely blamed for the coronavirus. Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent are facing an even more disturbing wave of hate, which has included discrimination, harassment, and violence.

The PBS News Hour reports, "The novel coronavirus pandemic has Americans across the country fearful for their personal health and well-being, but for Asian Americans, the virus has stirred up another threat: a wave of verbal and physical attacks."

A report issued by the Asian-Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department describes over 1,100 anti-Asian American acts of discrimination and harassment between March 19 – April 4, 2020.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) has highlighted, "a spike in anti-Asian violence and prejudice. In the U.S., racist and xenophobic outbursts, assaults and discriminatory practices against Asian Americans have been reported from coast to coast."

Scapegoating harms all of us

There are always people willing to incite against others for their own personal or ideological goals. Hate-filled claims are being used to spur fear and loathing in populations already frightened by the ongoing coronavirus.

This is called scapegoating and here is how it works: a person or group is falsely blamed for someone else's hardships, resulting in hatred of the targeted person or group. This does nothing to solve the actual problem. In fact, it makes it more difficult for societies to overcome challenges and often makes things worse for everyone.

Jews have been the victims of scapegoating for centuries and remain a target. During this pandemic, Asian Americans have become a target as well. For the sake of both communities, and our society as a whole, this hatred must stop.



Cough on Jews, make them sick

Jews are not only blamed for causing the pandemic but are being targeted for infection. The FBI reported that "members of extremist groups are encouraging one another

to spread the virus, if contracted, through bodily fluids and personal interactions" with Jews and police being the principle target.

THEN: Nazi poster in occupied France during World War II.



"Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Cancer are curable... We must finish with the greatest scourge: the Jews!"

(Credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)



Fatih Erbakan

"This Virus Serves Zionism's Goals Of Decreasing The Number Of People"

These are the words of Turkish politician Fatih Erbakan, leader of the radical Islamist Refah Party.

He also said:

"Zionism is a five-thousand-year-old bacteria that has caused the suffering of people."

NOTE: Modern Zionism was founded in 1897. Erbakan could only be referring to Jews.

NOW: Cartoon shared on Telegram



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Just as unity is crucial in the face of the threat posed by Coronavirus, we must unite to stop those who would exploit this moment to spread antisemitism, anti-Asian racism, and other forms of hatred.

- Educate yourself, your family, and your community about antisemitism and anti-Asian racism.
- Report hateful content on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social media platforms.
- While hate speech is generally protected by the First Amendment, it may be restricted if it threatens or incites violence. When a crime involves hate speech, it may be a hate crime. If you learn about an act of hate, reach out to the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department. If your report of an antisemitic incident leads to the arrest and conviction for a hate crime, you may be entitled to a cash reward of up to \$2,500.
- Carefully document incidents of hate and reach out to the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department for support.
- Reference our booklet, 10 Things You Can Do to Fight Antisemitism, for additional ideas.

Please Support StandWithUs

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