

From
Der Stürmer

to the
Podcaster

How
Lowmiprium
*Antisemitic
Libels Are
Normalized*

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Executive Summary

The Nazis wielded a set of antisemitic libels against the Jews of Europe that paved the way to the Holocaust. This study examines how those libels are being revived and normalized in Western democracies today. While the political conditions of interwar Europe are not the same as those in contemporary Western democracies, the accusations are, and so is the process by which they become conventional wisdom.

The study traces four libels from their Nazi-era form to their present one.

- ***Die Juden sind unser Unglück.*** “The Jews are our misfortune” is a slogan that hung on banners across Germany and ran beneath the masthead of *Der Stürmer*. It now appears as the claim that Zionism, Israel, or its supporters are the world’s problem.
- ***The Dolchstoßlegende.*** The “stab in the back” charge that Germany had been betrayed from within by Jews now appears as the accusation that Jews, Zionists and supporters of Israel serve a foreign power at their own country’s expense.
- ***The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.*** A 1903 forgery published in Russia cast Jewish leaders as a secret cabal plotting control of the world’s governments, banks, and press. The Nazi press reprinted it, German schools taught it, and Hitler invoked it before the Reichstag on the eve of the war. It now exists as the claim that a hidden Jewish or Zionist hand directs finance, media, and government.
- ***The blood libel.*** *Der Stürmer* revived the accusation that Jews murder children for ritual purposes, and Julius Streicher’s publishing house carried it into children’s literature. It now appears as the accusation that the Jewish state is committing genocide—the crime the Nazis committed against the Jews—with deliberate child killing at its core.

The chapters that follow examine each libel in turn. Where a libel is presented as a finding, the study analyzes the evidence offered for it.

Across the four chapters, the study traces the process of normalization. Old libels are repurposed for contemporary targets, repeated until repetition itself gives them the authority of fact, and carried into mainstream politics and institutions. The first three stages of the historical process examined here have reoccurred. The final two—a movement built on these accusations taking power and then codifying them in law and policy—have not.

The blood libel receives the fullest treatment because:

1. it is advanced as a documented finding and echoed by physicians, academics, human rights organizations, and UN bodies, whose presumed authority makes any refutation harder to accept.
2. it is taken as fact in the public arena—marchers chant it, elected officials restate it.
3. it is the accusation that makes the others speakable: once a Jewish collective is accepted as murdering children, the other libels can be voiced as opposition to evil.
4. it is invoked to justify acts of violence against Jews and their supporters.

These four features make the blood libel the face of modern antisemitism.

We've learned that once society adopts libels as settled truth, they provide justification for what follows. The Holocaust was possible because the charges used to justify it were already internalized. The slanders are once again being openly spread, and they must be countered.

Introduction

More than eighty years after the liberation of Auschwitz, a question many believed belonged to the past has returned: Are we witnessing the beginnings of a second Holocaust? The normalization of libels and falsehoods is a familiar warning sign.

Antisemitic lies are rapidly being transformed into accepted truths. Hate rhetoric once confined to neo-Nazi websites, white nationalist forums, and Islamist propaganda networks is spreading via social media into mainstream discourse with unprecedented speed. Pushed by Hamas supporters and Islamists, and fueled by algorithms that reward outrage, social media influencers rebrand ancient antisemitic conspiracies, swapping “Zionist” for “Jew” while peddling the same malevolent myths of child-killing and shadowy control of governments under the guise of liberation activism. The far right, including neo-Nazis and white supremacists who never abandoned these libels, freely amplify the far left’s antisemitic narratives as readily as their own.

These lies and conspiracies about “Zionists” are heard in every domain of public life, from classrooms and newsrooms to medicine, culture, and politics, creating a self-reinforcing echo chamber in which each domain validates the next while the world’s oldest hatred is globalized and mainstreamed by those who present themselves as righteous whistleblowers. The libels are accepted without evidence because repetition has taken the place of proof.

The consequences are real. Last year marked the deadliest year for Jews living outside Israel since the 1994 bombing at a Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.¹ In 2025, the United States experienced one of the most violent years ever recorded for American Jews, including the murder of a young couple employed by the Israeli embassy outside Washington’s Capital Jewish Museum.² Britain suffered its first fatal antisemitic terror attack in modern record-keeping at a Manchester synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the

Jewish calendar. Months later, Jewish volunteer ambulances were set on fire in a London synagogue car park.³ In Australia, antisemitic incidents more than tripled after October 7, 2023, culminating in the Bondi Beach massacre of Jews on the first night of Hanukkah.⁴ France recorded nearly four times as many antisemitic acts as the previous year, including the gang-rape of a 12-year-old girl because she was Jewish.⁵ Canada entered its third consecutive record year of antisemitic incidents, including multiple shootings of Jewish elementary schools, firebombings of synagogues, arson attacks on Jewish institutions, bomb threats against Jewish targets, and terrorist plots against Jewish communities.⁶ And Germany, where eighty years of denazification, memory laws, and public atonement were supposed to have ended that chapter, now reports roughly one antisemitic incident every hour.⁷

To be clear, conditions in modern Western democracies do not mirror the structural collapse of interwar Europe—there is no hyperinflation, no humiliated war generation, no private militias battling for the streets. But it would be a dangerous mistake to dismiss the warnings of Nazi Germany. The Holocaust did not occur as a spontaneous explosion of racism. It took place after antisemitism had become part of the fabric of society.

The Nazis capitalized on centuries-old religious and racial antisemitism in Europe, repurposing anti-Jewish stereotypes and libels to explain the economic distress and political upheaval that followed Germany's defeat in World War I. They methodically normalized the demonization of Jews over a period of more than a decade with defamatory falsehoods, grotesque libels, and extremist propaganda until it became the conventional wisdom embraced by society at large.

The culmination came after Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in 1933. Through *Gleichschaltung* (“coordination” or “synchronization”), the regime systematically brought civic, cultural, and professional institutions—including universities, healthcare systems, the press, labor unions, youth organizations, and the arts—under Nazi control. With this complete takeover,

antisemitism became embedded in official state doctrine, from the 1933 boycott of Jewish businesses and the purge of Jews from the civil service to the 1935 Nuremberg Laws that stripped them of citizenship. By the time *Gleichschaltung* had cemented German society into a regimented instrument of antisemitic terror, the necessary preconditions had already been established in a step-by-step process.

First, the old libels were repurposed. Second, they were repeated until repetition passed for proof. Third, they were carried into politics, where Jew hatred became a credential rather than a disqualifier. Fourth, a movement built on antisemitism took political power. Fifth, that movement translated its ideology into state policy and law. The first three steps have already recurred in today's Western democracies. The final two have not. Preventing the process from advancing further requires people with conscience to recognize, expose, and confront the antisemitic falsehoods and their purveyors before they take power.

Normalizing the Antisemitic Tropes

By the late nineteenth century, Europe had accumulated a ready supply of anti-Jewish accusations, waiting to be used wherever a scapegoat was required. Some were ancient, some more recent, all variations of similar, interwoven themes—the Jew as the source of the nation's misfortune, as alien and disloyal, as secret controller of the world to the non-Jew's detriment, as a child murderer. The Nazis converted those antisemitic tropes into conventional wisdom about the Jews and, ultimately, into a problem to be solved. The same antisemitic libels are used to foment anti-Jewish sentiment today, and the conversion into conventional wisdom is already underway.

Chapter 1: “Our Misfortune”

NAZI-ERA TROPE	CONTEMPORARY ADAPTATION	UNDERLYING ACCUSATION
<i>“Die Juden sind unser Unglück”</i> “The Jews are our misfortune”	Zionism/Israel (and its supporters) is the world’s problem/the world’s enemy	A Jewish collective —the Jewish nation, state, Zionists or Zionism—is a threat to society



A Der Stürmer display in Worms, 1935, showing the slogan “The Jews are our misfortune” displayed publicly as part of everyday Nazi propaganda.

Credit: Bundesarchiv, Bild 133-075 / Unknown / CC BY-SA 3.0.

THEN

In an 1879 essay, Heinrich von Treitschke, a German historian and political writer, coined the slogan “Die Juden sind unser Unglück”—“the Jews are our misfortune”—and presented it as a matter of national belief.⁸ Although Treitschke did not advocate the extermination of Jews, his writings would help legitimize Nazi hatred by portraying Jews as an alien and harmful collective whose influence endangered the German nation. The phrase became one of the Nazis’ most ubiquitous and recognizable slogans, emblazoned on public banners and display cases hung across Germany, and the tagline at the bottom of the front page of Julius Streicher’s *Der Stürmer*, a crude, sensationalist tabloid that served as a staple of Nazi propaganda.⁹ The slogan established the Jews as the nation’s scapegoat—an alien collective to be blamed for its grievances, failures, and misfortunes.



A street banner in Germany, 1935, proclaiming “The Jews are Our Misfortune” moved from political propaganda into the public landscape.

Credit: Yad Vashem Archives, photo 99226, Album FA120/2

NOW

The same trope has been repurposed for use against Zionism, Israel, and their supporters, recasting them as the source of the world's problems. In 2019, the German neo-Nazi party Die Rechte ran official posters in the European Parliament elections reading “Stop Zionism: Israel is our misfortune!” The change in vocabulary was not subtle, and it fooled no one, including German prosecutors. The Prosecutor General in Celle formally concluded that “Zionism” was being used as a code word for Jews and that “Israel is our misfortune” was a deliberate use of the slogan that had run across the front page of *Der Stürmer* for twenty-two years.¹⁰



A Die Rechte election poster, Germany, 2019, recasting the Nazi slogan “The Jews are our misfortune” as “Israel is our misfortune.”

Source: Die Rechte, 2019; documented by the Berlin Office for the Protection of the constitution.

In 2020, David Miller, then Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Bristol, declared the Zionist movement (and the Israeli government) “the enemy of the Left, the enemy of world peace” which “must be directly targeted.”¹¹ In 2021, he added that Zionism “is and always has been a racist, violent, imperialist ideology” that “has no place in any society.”

The university dismissed him several months later. A 2024 employment tribunal then ruled in favor of Miller and called the university’s dismissal of him discriminatory on the grounds that his anti-Zionist beliefs were protected. The university appealed and lost. The Miller case reveals how a trope evolves and becomes normalized. Its evolution: a Jewish national movement has replaced “the Jews” as the enemy of world peace, not fit to exist in any society. Its normalization: an employment tribunal rules it protected belief.¹²

In June 2025, Candace Owens, a podcaster with a following of millions, named Zionism the American nation's misfortune. Appearing on *Piers Morgan Uncensored*, she declared: "Zionism has brought us nothing but grief in America. Can you name one positive thing that Zionists have contributed to America?" Like Treitschke, she prefaced the indictment with the bandwagon appeal,¹³ saying "a lot of people" were "waking up" to it.¹⁴

On July 2, 2026, in an interview on CNN, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan invoked the trope while calling for international sanctions against Israel. He said, "Israel is not just my problem—it is the world's problem—and it needs to be framed that way... Humanity needs to debate this, too; everyone knows it, senses it, whispers about it in private corners, speaks of it, and occasionally even discusses it openly—but the fact remains, my friend, that this is a shared problem for humanity...With their policies and their mindset, these people have become a burden that humanity can no longer bear. ..." He too claimed to be voicing what others already knew but were unwilling to say publicly.¹⁵

What began as a nationalist antisemitic slogan that dwelt in the margins has evolved into a recurring accusation across the political spectrum, reaching as high as the foreign minister of a sitting member of NATO.



Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan describing Israel as “the world’s problem” and a burden humanity could no longer bear, CNN Türk, July 2, 2026.

Source: TRT World screenshot of the CNN Türk interview; reproduced for criticism and analysis.

Endnotes

1 J7 Large Communities' Task Force Against Antisemitism, *J7 Annual Report on Antisemitism 2026* (New York: Anti-Defamation League, 2026), https://34d0dc30-7136-4c4b-bee4-d93d1c3c11bd.usrfiles.com/ugd/34d0dc_df70ed62a9ee42a99636df79620a9da4.pdf.

2 Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024* (April 2025), <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024>: recorded 9,354 incidents, the highest annual total since tracking began in 1979 and the fourth consecutive record-setting year, following records in 2021, 2022, and 2023. See also: Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2025* (May 6, 2026), <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2025>: physical assaults rose to 203, the highest ever recorded, with assaults involving deadly weapons up 39 percent, and the first Jewish fatalities in antisemitic attacks on American soil since 2019, including Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, murdered outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington on May 21, 2025.

3 Community Security Trust, *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2025* (February 11, 2026), <https://cst.org.uk/research/cst-publications/antisemitic-incidents-report-2025>. CST recorded 3,700 incidents in 2025, the second-highest annual total ever reported, behind only 2023 (4,298). For the first time, every calendar month exceeded 200 incidents. The October 2, 2025 attack at Heaton Park Synagogue, Manchester, on Yom Kippur, which killed Melvin Cravitz and Adrian Daulby, was the first antisemitic terror attack to result in loss of life since CST began recording incidents in 1984; on the March 23, 2026 arson that destroyed four Hatzola volunteer ambulances in the car park of Machzike Hadath Synagogue, Golders Green, treated by the Metropolitan Police as an antisemitic hate crime, see *Hansard, HC Deb*, March 23, 2026 ("Hatzola Ambulance Attack"), <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-03-23/debates/B1AB6008-EFAB-4ADD-969D-BE00D83C2BCF/HatzolaAmbulanceAttack>.

4 Executive Council of Australian Jewry, *Report on Antisemitism in Australia 2024* (Julie Nathan, research director), <https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Report-An->

[ti-Jewish-Incidents-Australia-2024-1.pdf](#). The report documented a 316 percent increase in reported antisemitic incidents in the twelve months following October 7, 2023, totaling 2,062—an annual increase without precedent in the report’s history; On the Bondi Beach attack of December 14, 2025—fifteen killed and dozens wounded at a Hanukkah celebration attended by roughly 1,000 people, declared by New South Wales Police a terrorist attack targeting the Jewish community, and the deadliest attack in Australia since 1996—see “How the Bondi Beach terrorist attack unfolded,” ABC News, December 16, 2025, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-16/bondi-beach-terrorist-attack-maps-videos-explain-how-it-happened/106145448>.

5 Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive (SPCJ) and French Ministry of the Interior, report on antisemitic acts in France in 2023, presented by the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF), “Rapport sur les chiffres de l’antisémitisme en 2023 présenté par le SPCJ : Flambée des actes antisémites en France à partir du 7 octobre,” January 24, 2024, <https://www.crif.org/articles/actualites/2024-01-24/rapport-sur-les-chiffres-de-lantisemitisme-en-2023-presente-par-le-spcj-flambee-des-actes-antisemites-en-france-a-partir-du-7-octobre/>. The report recorded 1,676 antisemitic acts in 2023, against 436 in 2022; in the three months following the October 7 attack, antisemitic acts equaled the total of the previous three years combined. The following year remained near the historic peak, with 1,570 acts recorded; CRIF’s report on 2024 itself names the Courbevoie rape among the year’s most violent incidents. See “CRIF reports 1,570 antisemitic incidents in France in 2024,” European Jewish Congress, January 23, 2025, <https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/france/crif-reports-1570-antisemitic-incidents-in-france-in-2024>; On the June 15, 2024 attack and the June 2025 verdict of the Nanterre juvenile court, which found the victim would not have been raped had she not been Jewish, see “French teens sentenced for 2024 antisemitic rape of Jewish girl,” *Times of Israel*, June 13, 2025, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/french-teens-sentenced-for-2024-antisemitic-rape-of-jewish-girl.

6 B’nai Brith Canada, League for Human Rights, *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2025* (April 27, 2026), <https://leagueforhumanrights.ca/>. The audit documented 6,800 incidents in 2025, the highest total since the audit began in 1982 and the third consecutive

record year; incidents rose 145.6 percent from 2022 to 2025. See also: B'NAI BRITH CANADA SPECIAL REPORT: *Antisemitic Violence in Canada is Out of Control*, <https://bnaibrith.ca/bnai-brith-canada-special-report-antisemitic-violence-in-canada-is-out-of-control/>.

7 Bundesverband RIAS (Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism), *Antisemitic Incidents in Germany 2024: Annual Report* (Berlin, June 2025), 10, https://report-antisemitism.de/documents/04-06-25_Antisemitic_incidents_in_Germany_Annual-Report_Federal_Association_RIAS_2024.pdf. RIAS documented 8,627 antisemitic incidents in 2024, an increase of almost 77 percent over 2023 (4,886 incidents)—statistically, nearly 24 incidents per day, or roughly one every hour, compared with 13 per day in 2023.

8 Heinrich von Treitschke, “Unsere Aussichten,” *Preußische Jahrbücher* 44, Heft 5 (November 1879); English trans. in Richard S. Levy, ed., *Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts* (Lexington, MA: D. C. Heath, 1991), 69–73, republished as “Heinrich von Treitschke Pronounces ‘The Jews are Our Misfortune’ (November 15, 1879),” *German History in Documents and Images*, <https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/forging-an-empire-bismarckian-germany-1866-1890/heinrich-von-treitschke-pronounces-the-jews-are-our-misfortune-november-15-1879>.

9 US Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Der Stürmer (Nuremberg, Germany) [Newspaper],” Collections catalog record irn538809, <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn538809>. (For first-issue date, April 20, 1923, and circulation: Randall Bytwerk, “Der Stürmer,” German Propaganda Archive, Calvin University, <https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/sturmer.htm>).

10 “Wahlplakat der Partei ‘DIE RECHTE’: Generalstaatsanwaltschaft Celle weist Beschwerde gegen die Einstellung des Verfahrens zurück” [Election Poster of the Party “DIE RECHTE”: Celle Public Prosecutor’s Office Rejects Appeal Against the Discontinuation of Proceedings], press release, 25 January 2021, Generalstaatsanwaltschaft Celle, <https://generalstaatsanwaltschaft-celle.niedersachsen.de/startseite/>

aktuelles/presseinformationen/wahlplakat-der-partei-die-rechte-generalstaatsanwaltschaft-celle-weist-beschwerde-gegen-die-einstellung-des-verfahrens-zurueck-196499.html. (Original German: “...nicht gegen den Staat Israel... sondern gegen die jüdische Bevölkerung richte... eine bewusste Anleihe an die... Wochenzeitung ‘Der Stürmer’...” English translation: “...directed not against the State of Israel... but rather against the Jewish population... a deliberate borrowing from the... weekly newspaper ‘Der Stürmer’...” Translation by AI).

11 David Miller, remarks at “Campaign for Free Speech!,” online meeting of Labour Against the Witch-hunt, July 29, 2020, video, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSjlMHNkEWg> (starting at 47:09). Miller was at the time professor of political sociology at the University of Bristol. For contemporaneous documentation of the event, see Community Security Trust, “The Far Left Event That Attacked CST and Praised David Irving,” *CST Blog*, August 7, 2020, <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/08/07/the-far-left-event-that-attacked-cst-and-praised-david-irving>.

12 *Dr D Miller v University of Bristol*, Employment Tribunal Case No. 1400780/2022, Reserved Judgment (February 5, 2024), HM Courts & Tribunals Service, <https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/dr-d-miller-v-university-of-bristol-1400780-slash-2022>; Miller’s written statement to Ben Bloch, news editor, *Bristol Tab*, February 18, 2021, is quoted in full in this judgment; on appeal, *University of Bristol v Dr David Miller* [2026] EAT 84 (August 4, 2026), Employment Appeal Tribunal, <https://www.gov.uk/employment-appeal-tribunal-decisions/university-of-bristol-v-dr-david-miller-2026-eat-84>.

13 Ike Nur Jayanti, “Bandwagon as a Propaganda Technique: When ‘Participating’ Is Used as a Geopolitical Weapon,” *Modern Diplomacy*, March 8, 2026, <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2026/03/08/bandwagon-as-a-propaganda-technique-when-participating-is-used-as-a-geopolitical-weapon>.

14 Candace Owens, interview with Piers Morgan, *Piers Morgan Uncensored*, “Candace Owens Calls for Regime Change in Israel,” June 24, 2025, video, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxY->

[pRw4g6T8](#) (audio and transcript preserved; the quoted exchange follows Owens’s statement that “if we’re going to get behind a regime change it should be in Israel first”; Yvette Alt Miller, “Let Candace Owens Spew Her Hatred,” *Aish.com*, July 1, 2025, <https://aish.com/let-candace-owens-spew-her-hatred/>, which quotes the full passage in transcription).

15 Dışişleri Bakanı Sayın Hakan Fidan’ın CNN Türk’e Verdiği Mülakat, 2 Temmuz 2026 [Interview Given by Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to CNN Türk, July 2, 2026], T.C. Dışişleri Bakanlığı [Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs], <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/disisleri-bakani-sayin-hakan-fidan-in-cnn-turk-e-verdigi-mulakat-2-temmuz-2026.tr.mfa>. Original Turkish: “Problem şu: İsrail sadece benim değil, İsrail dünyanın sorunu ve bunu da böyle anlatmak gerekiyor. İsrail sadece Türkiye’nin sorunu değil, sadece Sayın Cumhurbaşkanımızın meselesi değil....Bunu da insanlığın ayrıca bir tartışması lazım ama herkes biliyor, hissediyor, gizli köşelerde fısıldıyor, söylüyor, zaman zaman da açıktan konuşuyor ama bunlar insanlığın ortak sorunu kardeşim. Bunun adını böyle koymak lazım. Bu adamlar insanlığın artık taşıyamadığı bir yük haline geldiler bu politikalarıyla, bu kafalarıyla. İnsanlık bunu taşıyamıyor. İnsanlık vicdanı bunu taşıyamıyor. Siyasal sistemler taşıyamıyor. Ekonomik sistemler taşıyamıyor. Hangi sistemden yaklaşırsanız yaklaşın, bu adamları taşıyacak bir parametre yok..” (“The problem is this: Israel is not just my problem—it is the world’s problem—and it needs to be framed that way. Israel is not merely Turkey’s issue, nor is it solely a matter for our President... Humanity needs to debate this, too; everyone knows it, senses it, whispers about it in private corners, speaks of it, and occasionally even discusses it openly—but the fact remains, my friend, that this is a shared problem for humanity. That is how it must be defined. With their policies and their mindset, these people have become a burden that humanity can no longer bear. Humanity cannot shoulder this. The human conscience cannot bear it. Political systems cannot sustain it. Economic systems cannot sustain it. No matter which system you look at it through, there is no parameter capable of sustaining them.”) Translation by Google Translate. For English-language reporting on the remarks and the diplomatic response, see Amit Avitan and Idan Kweller, “‘Political Systems Cannot Sustain It’: Turkish FM Calls for Sanctions on Israel, Sa’ar Retaliates,” *The Jerusalem Post*, July 3, 2026, <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-901311>; see also “Sa’ar Accuses Turkish FM of ‘Incitement