

DEFINING ANTISEMITISM

ANTI-JEWISH RACISM

anti-Semitism
one or something that is
to or prejudiced against
Semitic beliefs were well-
antisemitism /æ

Semitism is hostility
Jewish people. The ex
Front promoted anti-s
antiseptic /æntisept

1 Antiseptic is a su
bacteria. Sh

The JEWS did 9-11

The Jews are dragging the US into a WAR

Israel has no right to exist

The number of Jews killed in the Holocaust is exaggerated

JEW him down on the PRICE

Hitler was a Jew

Jews control the BANKS

**Zionism is
RACISM**

Jews to the OVENS

Jews ♡
money

Hooked
NOSE
Jews

JEWS are GLOBALISTS

Jews are SNAKES and RATS

Israel kills Palestinians for their ORGANS

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free

HOLLYWOOD is run by the JEWS

The United States is a puppet for Israel

For World Peace ISRAEL
must be DESTROYED

The Holocaust hoax

WHY WE NEED A DEFINITION

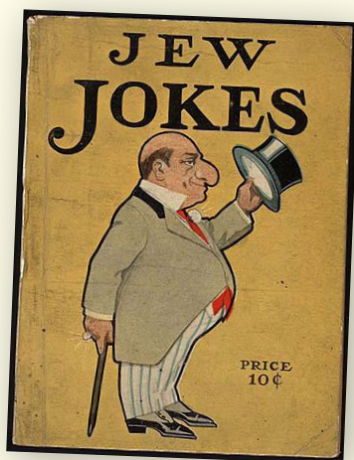
This booklet's purpose is to serve as a shorthand reference for defining the word "antisemitism," widely understood as meaning hatred against Jews. There have been many versions of this ancient form of bigotry: cultural, political, racial. All these variations have been deadly, some genocidal, and remain potent and active today.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 to focus on Holocaust-related issues. The IHRA definition of antisemitism is "a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism" to be used toward "set[ting] an example of responsible conduct for other international fora and provide an important tool with practical applicability for its Member Countries."

In 2016, the Working Definition, including a list of possible examples of antisemitism, was adopted by a plenary meeting of the 31 countries within the IHRA. As of January 2021, 28 UN member states have adopted or endorsed this definition. A wide range of other political entities, including many regional/state and local governments, have also done so.

In this booklet we share the IHRA definition, and a shorter version that can be used when the situation calls for a more concise explanation of antisemitism.

We also cover the "3D test" first articulated by Natan Sharansky, former Soviet-political prisoner, Israeli politician and human rights activist. The 3D test examines anti-Israel rhetoric and helps distinguish legitimate criticism from hate speech.



1. ANTISEMITISM: THE SHORT VERSION

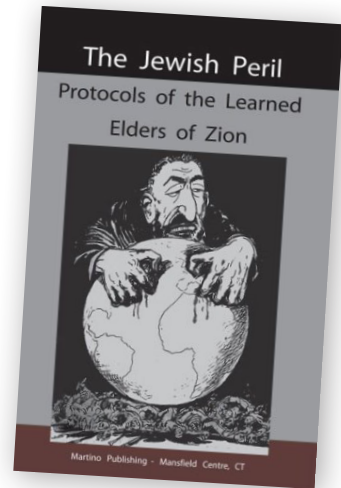
Antisemitism is anti-Jewish racism.*

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Antisemitism harms Jews individually and/or collectively. It scapegoats (falsely blames) them, subjects them to discriminatory double standards, and demonizes/dehumanizes them.

Antisemitism takes many forms and typically results from ignorance, misinformation, a prejudiced bias, or outright hatred. In this way it is similar to other types of bigotry, like racism against people of color, misogyny (hatred of women), homophobia (prejudice against LGBTQ people), and religious intolerance (prejudice against people of a different faith).

Modern antisemitism comes from three main sources — the far right, the far left, and Islamist extremists. While they are all distinct, they promote many of the same bigoted themes about Jews. This includes conspiracy theories about Jews/Zionists controlling the world and anti-Israel rhetoric that crosses the line into outright antisemitism.



* The Oxford Dictionary defines racism as, "Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized."

This cartoon appeared on the World Social Forum's website in 2016 advertising a lecture that claimed that Saudi Arabia is "in the service of world Zionism-capitalism."



2. ANTISEMITISM RELATED TO ISRAEL



Natan Sharansky was imprisoned in 1977 by the Soviet Union for speaking truth to power. He was sentenced to thirteen years at hard labor in the Soviet Union's notorious prison system where his health deteriorated. In 1986, after a massive international campaign pressured the Soviets to release him, Sharansky immigrated to Israel.

During the five year Al Aqsa Terror War on Israeli citizens (2000–2005), the Second Intifada, Sharansky noticed anti-Israel criticism taking on a pattern strikingly familiar to the way totalitarian ideologies destroy the reputations of their enemies: Demonization, Double standards and Delegitimization. This pattern he noted, had been used against Jews for nearly two millennia.

He called this
**The 3Ds of the
New Antisemitism.**

The 3Ds are criteria by which anti-Israel rhetoric can be tested against the mechanisms that have historically defined antisemitic behaviors. The following are excerpts from an article published by Sharansky in 2005.¹



¹ Natan Sharansky, "Antisemitism in 3-D," *Jewish Daily Forward*, January 21, 2005.

Demonization

1 Demonization. Jews have been demonized for centuries as the embodiment of evil, whether in the theological form of a collective accusation of deicide or in the generalized depiction of Jews as money-grubbing “Shylocks.”

Today we must take note when the Jewish state or its leaders are being demonized, with their actions being blown out of all rational proportion. Comparisons of Israelis to Nazis and of Gaza to concentration camps are clearly antisemitic. Those who draw such analogies either are deliberately ignorant regarding Nazi Germany or, more commonly, are deliberately depicting modern-day Israel as the embodiment of absolute evil.



This placard was displayed at an anti-war march in San Francisco on February 16th, 2003, organized by the International A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition, a Marxist group.

Double Standards

2 Double standards. Many nations enacted discriminatory laws against Jews, judging their behavior by a different yardstick. This differential treatment of Jews was always a clear sign of antisemitism.

Similarly, today we must ask whether criticism of Israel is being applied selectively. In other words, do similar policies pursued by other governments produce similar criticism? It is antisemitic discrimination, for instance, when Israel is singled out for condemnation by the United Nations for perceived human rights abuses while violations of human rights on a massive scale — by China, Iran, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria, to name just a few — are not even mentioned.



Delegitimization

3 Delegitimization. Traditionally, antisemites denied the legitimacy of the Jewish religion, the Jewish people, or both. Today, they attempt to deny the legitimacy of the Jewish state, presenting it as, among other things, the prime remnant of imperialist colonialism, an absolute evil. While criticism of an Israeli policy may not be antisemitic, the denial of Israel's right to exist is always antisemitic.

If other peoples, including 21 Arab Muslim States — and particularly the many states created in the postcolonial period following World War II — have the right to live securely in their homelands, then the Jewish people have that right as well, particularly given the sanction of the United Nations in recognizing the country at its founding. Questioning that legitimacy is pure antisemitism.



3. THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an inter-governmental alliance of 34 member countries committed to combating antisemitism and preserving Holocaust memory. In 2016 the IHRA issued a working definition of antisemitism to serve as a

guide for understanding and recognizing antisemitism. To date, this definition or a very similar variation has been endorsed by the EU, the UK, the U.S.A., Canada, and numerous other democracies. In February 2019 the president of France announced that his government would adopt it as well.



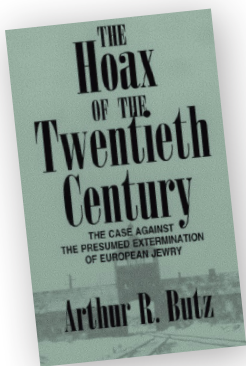
The IHRA's general definition of antisemitism is:

A "certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

The IHRA definition continues: "Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to" the following:

- 1 Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- 2 Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective—such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.





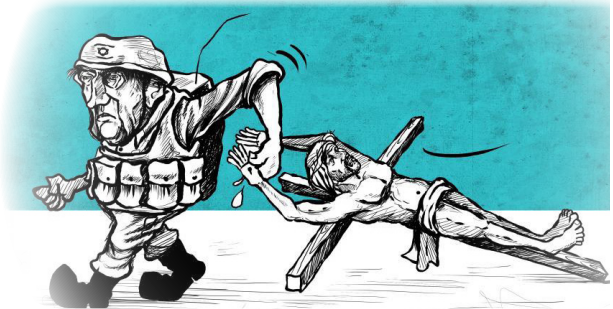
Infamous Holocaust-denier Arthur Butz published a book in 1976 claiming that the Holocaust was a propaganda hoax.

- 3 Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- 4 Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g., gas chambers), or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- 5 Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- 6 Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.





- 7 Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination (e.g., by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor).
- 8 Applying double standards by requiring of it [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- 9 Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- 10 Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- 11 Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.



The IHRA definition also states that “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”

For more in-depth reading on this complex subject, the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism has published dozens of booklets, including a four-part introduction to antisemitism in all its permutations:



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