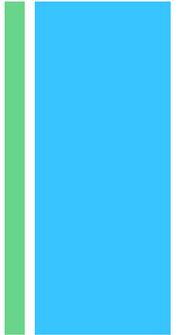


# Historical Antisemitism

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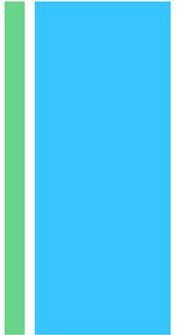
# Definition of Antisemitism



- Antisemitism is the term for hatred of Jews as a group or a concept.
- Hatred of Jews has existed since ancient times, and in the nineteenth century it was being influenced by modern scientific ways of thinking.
- The word “antisemitism” was coined in Germany by political activist Wilhelm Marr to represent this newer way of thinking.
- Semitism supposedly expressed all things Jewish, since at the time national groups were frequently defined by their language and the traditional language of Jews is Hebrew, which is a Semetic language.
- Of course there is no such thing as “Semitism” and all speakers of Semetic languages never belonged to the same national or ethnic groups.



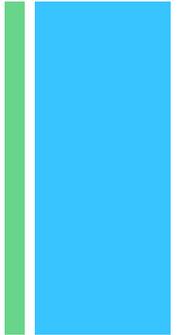
# Definition of Antisemitism



- Antisemitism may take the form of religious teachings that proclaim the inferiority of Jews, their supposedly evil nature, or other negative ideas about Jews.
- It may include political efforts to isolate, oppress, or otherwise injure them. It may also include prejudiced or other stereotyped views about Jews derived from racial or other ideologies.



# Antisemitism through Time: The Beginning of Christianity



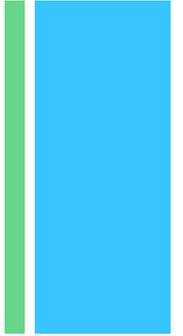
- With the beginning of Christianity, there was an inherent clash between Judaism and Christianity.
- Christianity grew out of Judaism, but at the same time was competing with it.
- Early Church fathers believed the Jews had failed in their role in the world and that Christians had inherited it. In addition, although the Romans crucified Jesus, the blame was put on all Jews everywhere and forever (a false blame that was condemned by the Catholic Church in the 1960's). (Also of note, Jesus was a Jew)
- Jews were also said to be in league with the devil, which both dehumanized and demonized them. For those reasons, not only were Jews seen as outsiders, but they were also regarded as a people who should be eternally punished.

# + Antisemitism through Time: The Middle Ages

- Jews were living in Europe not as an integrated part of society, but as outsiders and on the sufferance of local rulers.
- Popular antisemitism prevailed partly to win favor with the ruling Romans.
- Jews could live only where the rulers allowed them and practice only certain trades and professions that generally were shunned by the rest of the population.
- As a result, Jews often engaged in trade and banking, which led to negative stereotypes that Jews care only for money and engage in shady business practices.



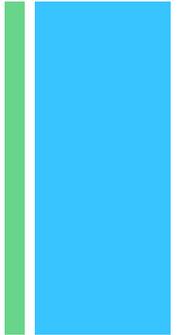
# Antisemitism through Time: The Middle Ages



- When crisis struck, primarily the massive death caused by the “Black Death” in the 1300’s, Jews were falsely accused of having caused the sickness by poisoning the wells – they were made the scapegoats for the tragedy.
- Other accusations included the patently false blood libel – the belief that Jews use the blood of Christians for ritual purposes.
- As a result of these many layers of anti-Jewish stereotypes, Jews were frequently massacred, expelled, or forcibly converted to Christianity.

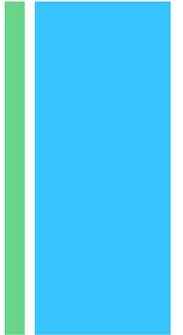
# + Antisemitism through Time: The Nineteenth century

- Many antisemitic stereotypes are deeply rooted in the Western World. As the Age of Enlightenment and “modern thought” came about, the process of giving Jews equal rights began to take shape in much of Europe.
- As more assimilation and integration took place, there were some in the general society who welcomed these changes and hoped the negative characteristics would disappear.
- There continued a discussion as to whether or not Jews could be part of the broader nation. Many viewed Jews as a separate group or nation.
- New stereotypes emerged ... Jewish elders plot to take over the world. This notion was recorded and published as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.
- *Jews were accused of being unpatriotic, despite the evidence to the contrary.*



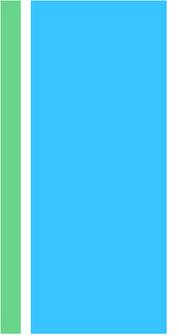
# + Antisemitism through Time: The Nineteenth century cont'd.

- During the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, racism as a pseudoscience first surfaced.
- Racism grew out of the emerging sciences of biology, genetics, and anthropology. It held that human civilization could best be understood through biology.
- Different national and ethnic groups were defined by their biological characteristics with some groups superior to others.
- With the long history, or “The Longest Hatred” as a backdrop, Jews then were seen in negative stereotypes and their biology was the reason.
- With earlier forms of antisemitism, Jews could “escape” the negativity by assimilating. As soon as Anti-Jewish prejudice was linked to racism, Jews could do nothing to change themselves or the hatred directed toward them.



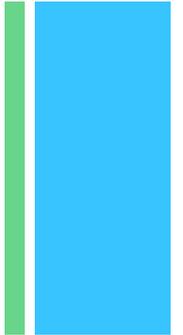
# + Antisemitism – Hitler and the Nazi Party:

- Antisemitism was central to the Nazi ideology.
- Germans were the “master race” and saw Jews as the archenemy.
- In short, Germany blamed Jews for all of humanity’s shortfalls and troubles.
- Not only did they believe Jews had no place in Europe, they felt they must put an end to the ‘Jewish menace’ lest the Jews destroy them.





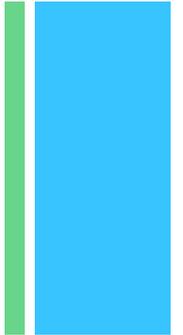
# The Protocols of The Elders of Zion



- In 1903, a newspaper in Czarist Russia published a false document that allegedly described a secret action plan by which “the Jews” were plotting to take over the world.
- Although the Russian secret police quickly proved the document to be a forgery, *The Protocols* was distributed across Europe.
- The first version in German came out in 1911 – in Berlin.
- In 1937, a court in Switzerland declared this myth of global Jewish conspiracy to be groundless.

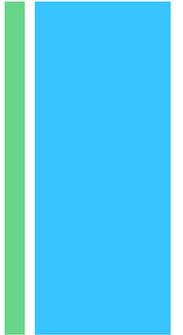
# + The Protocols of The Elders of Zion cont'd.

- Unfortunately, this finding did not stop the dissemination of *The Protocols* worldwide – including the United States, or its translation into dozens of languages.
- For example in the 1920's, Henry Ford – the famous American car manufacturer – financed the translation of this document into English. He also required his dealerships to have it “available” for free to their many customers.
- No other antisemitic text has been – and continues to be – so widely distributed.



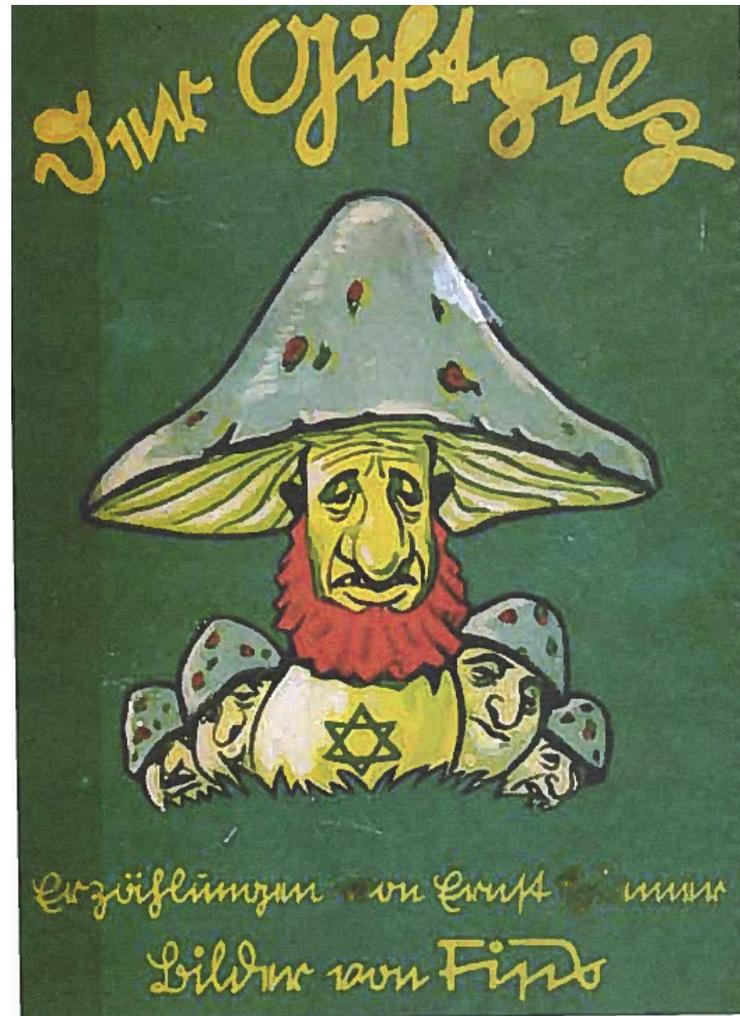


# Antisemitism since WWII:



- One might think since the Holocaust, antisemitism would have disappeared.
- Unfortunately, today there is a host of antisemitic stereotypes and motifs still found. Some are older beliefs, some are newer variations. Among them the hatred of Jews linked to a demonic image of Israel and Zionism altogether.

# + Visual Examples of Nazi Propaganda



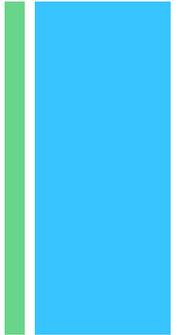
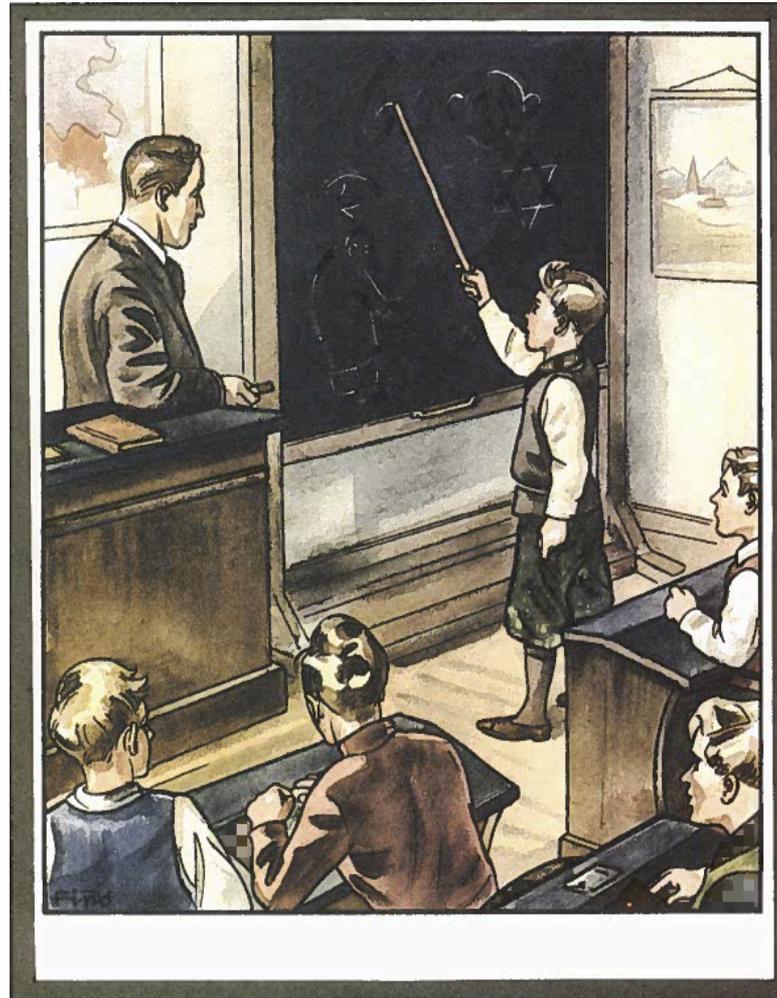
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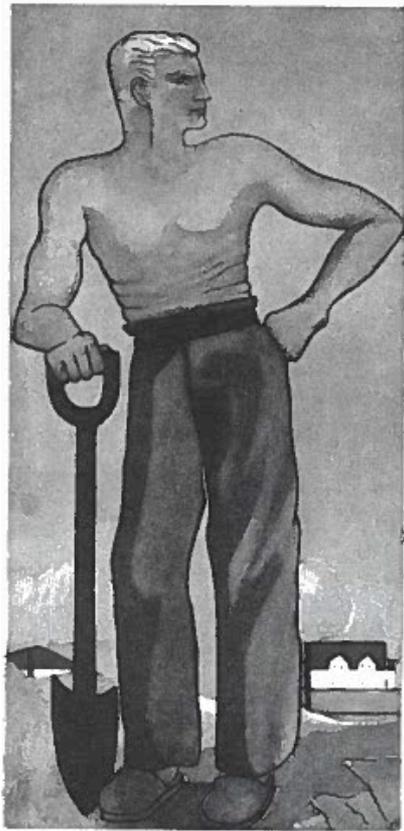
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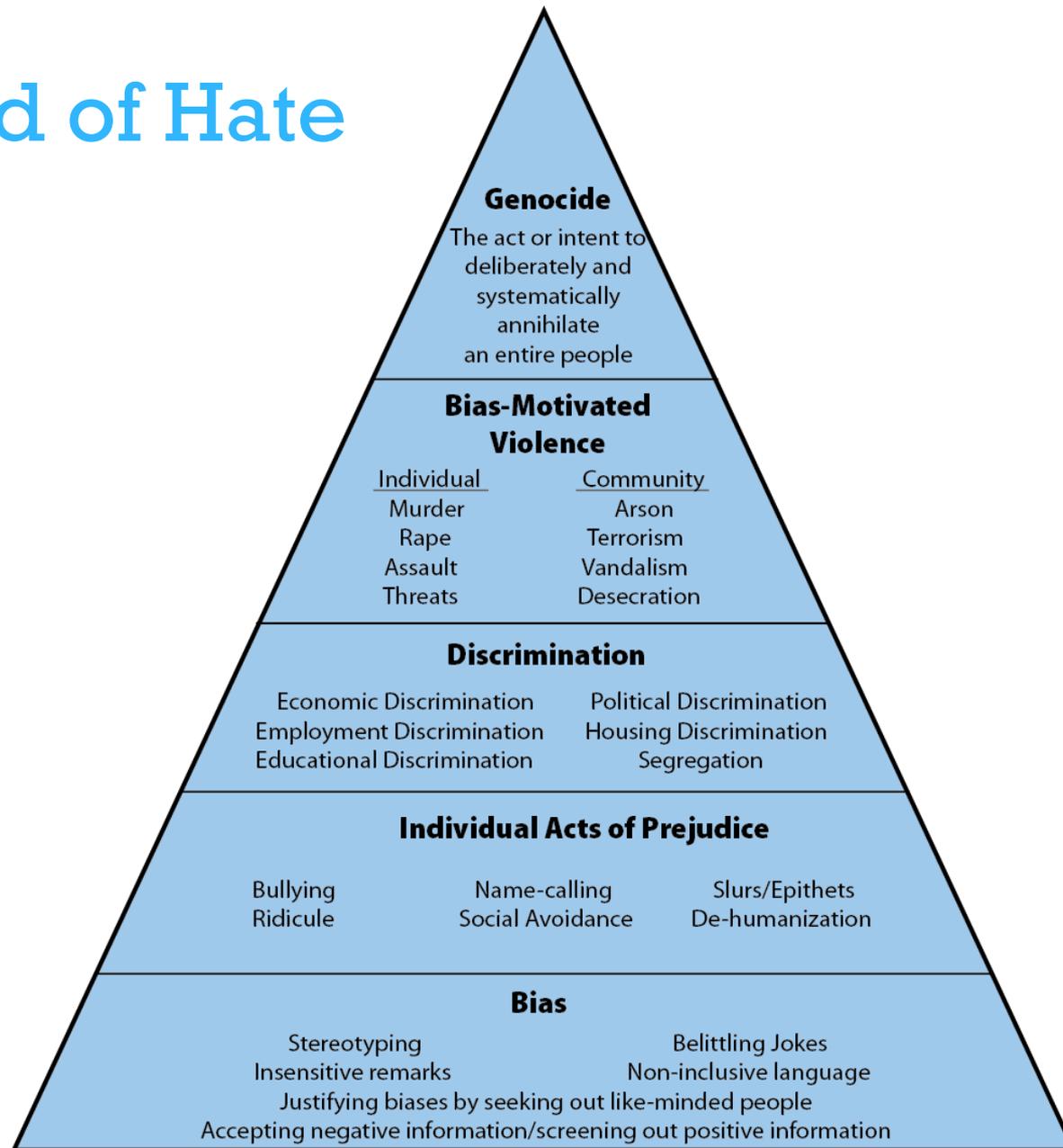
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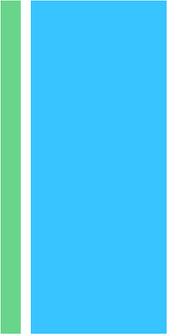
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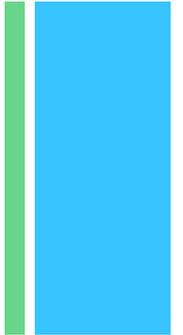
# + Pyramid of Hate



+ USC Shoah Foundation



# + ADL 100



- <http://global100.adl.org/>

# + Sources

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- USC Shoah Foundation website
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  - <http://www.adl.org/?referrer=https://www.google.com/>

