

European History Research paper:
Factors Responsible for the existence
of anti-Semitism in Europe today.

CHY4UP.1

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6th October 2020

Anti-Semitism has been a prevalent issue for as long as many can remember, despite the changing and evolving of society. The term anti-Semitism dates back to 1873. It refers to prejudice and discrimination against people of the Jewish faith, as individuals and as a group. This form of prejudice is solely based on stereotypes and fabrication brought on Jewish people. What began as a religious conflict became “a systematic policy of political, economic, and social isolation; exclusion, degradation, and attempted annihilation.” (A Brief History Of Anti-Semitism). The Holocaust was a greatly known genocide of Jewish people in Germany, yet it affected Jewish people worldwide. It is responsible for the death of about six million people mostly Jewish, but also Gypsies, disabled people, and others that the Nazis did not think fit the Aryan race standard. During the middle ages in Europe, Jewish people were exceedingly disadvantaged, as they were not given citizenship. This allowed the Government to treat them inadequately, simply because they were not citizens of the country. They were also forced to live in ghettos, and in conditions that were less than desirable. Not to mention anti-Jewish riots also became a popularized act in the Russian Empire during the 19th and 20th centuries and eventually, the use of concentration camps, gas chambers, and other inhumane ways of torture brought onto Jewish people of all ages by the Nazis. The Holocaust was a sizeable moment in history for the development of anti-Semitism, and was the ultimate factor that helped bring awareness to the issues that the Jewish people faced daily, but the cycle did not start there. Anti-Semitism can be dated back just as far as the beginning of Jewish history. In other words, Jewish people have struggled with discrimination due to their faith the moment it began and have not had true peace since. In addition, anti-Semitism also did not end after WWII and continues to rise in Europe today. In numerous studies and comparisons, it has shown that Anti-Semitism has been on the rise. As of 2019, there was 1805 incidents driven by anti-Semitism in the UK, 947 in

London, and 1799 as of 2018 in Germany (Topic: Anti-Semitism in Europe). Not to mention these are only the cases reported. Some of these countries have stated that they have issues of Holocaust denial as well. In surveys conducted in European countries like Italy, France, Sweden, etc. based on anti-Semitism it is notable how much people recognize the issue. In France, 82% of people agree that anti-Semitism was a problem in their country, in Sweden 75% of people believe that acts against the Jewish have increased over the last 5 years, and in Hungary, 51% of people think anti-Semitism is a problem in politics (Topic: Anti-Semitism in Europe). It is very much evident, and unfortunate that in Europe today anti-Semitism still exists and continues to ruin and force fear in the lives of Jewish people. More specifically, Holocaust Denial, the Coronavirus outbreak, and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians all perceptibly illustrate why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today.

The first facet to examine when looking at why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today, is Holocaust denial. Holocaust denial is known as the blatant act of denying the Nazi genocide of Jewish people in the holocaust during its time. It can be split into two forms hard-core denial and soft core denial (Explaining Holocaust Denial). In hard-core denial people will argue that there was no actual planned or systemized program to annihilate Jewish people by the Nazis. They would state that the entire idea of getting rid of Jewish people from European countries is completely false. Also, that it was made up by Jewish people for financial gain and for the sympathy of the world. Not only does this demonstrate complete ignorance for the many facts, Evidence, and documentation of the holocaust done by the Germans as they were great at keeping records, but it also evidently demonstrates protrusive prejudice and anti-Semitism. As the idea of Jewish people and the topic around greed and financial gain is one of the biggest

stereotypes linked to anti-Semitism. In soft-core denial, idea that the Holocaust never happened is not the case, but the question of the intensity and how bad it actually was is at play. In this case, people may ask “Were there really gas chambers?” “Was it really 6 million?” etc. They do not deny the Holocaust happening, but the events that took place as well as the actual impact. European countries have had their fair share of Holocaust denial. For example, in 2010 there was a case in Germany, of a man named Udo Pastoers who conducted a speech in which he suggested that the Holocaust never happened. Not only did he conduct the speech on the day after Holocaust Remembrance Day, but he tried to justify his actions with his right to freedoms of speech. In his speech, Udo Pastores states “the so-called Holocaust is being used for political and commercial purposes, a barrage of criticism and propagandistic lies and Auschwitz projections.” (Miller). In 2012 he was convicted and charged as the courts believed that “Denying that the Holocaust ever happened isn’t a form of freedom of expression protected under the European Human Rights Convention.”(Miller). This is relevant because despite this being a win for Jewish people it still sets Holocaust denial as a problem in Europe. With the ideas that Udo Pastoers had, he was not alone and brought with him a crowd that agreed with the ideals of Holocaust denial that he shared. Another aspect is recognized in a more recent study conducted during 2018 in the European Union, in which people were asked if they felt that denying the genocide of Jewish people was a problem in their countries. The majority of participators believed that Holocaust denial was a problem in their country. In more specifics, in Sweden, 79% of people believed Holocaust denial was an issue as well as 78% in France, 71% Germany, 61% in Italy, and the list goes on.(Perceptions on holocaust denial in the EU 2018). This is relevant because it demonstrates Holocaust denial as an act of anti-Semitism and an increasing problem in European countries as shown through the people who live there. Hence.

anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today due to Holocaust denial which is a very evident problem in Europe.

Along with Holocaust denial the next area that will be discussed when examining why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today, is the Coronavirus. The Coronavirus has had a significant impact on the year of 2020. The virus can be dated back to December of 2019, as a mysterious disease began to affect many people in Wuhan, China. At first, it was believed to be a type of Pneumonia. It was not until March of 2020 that Coronavirus also known as Covid-19 was named a pandemic by the World Health Organization. As a result, the world went on pause with multiple lockdowns and Quarantine put in place all over the world. In saying this, this disease has allowed for countries all around the world to demonstrate strength and resilience as they battle to keep their people safe and find ways to keep the virus under control. As well as a sense of community brought by the idea that everyone is dealing with the virus together. Not to mention the unity in the citizens and people of the countries wearing masks and doing what they can to help stop the spread. Unfortunately, it has also opened space for conflict within countries, lack of Government control and division, an increase of hate crimes, economic downfall, Anti-Maskers, a loss of many everyday privileges, and so much more. Not to mention the numerous lives lost due to the virus. The fact that this outbreak is very much new and unexpected the government is forced to find ways to deal with it with little time and no experience. Although people have been able to demonstrate some form of unity, some people may be fear stricken, while others may be uncertain on how they feel about the virus, and some people may not believe in the idea of the virus existing on a whole. This causes more division. Thus, creating a foundation for aggressive behaviors, hate crimes, and other conflicts to rise as a result of people

looking for someone or something to blame for the loss of their freedoms, new protocols, etc. As a result, a rise in hate crimes have been directed to people of Asian descent, not to mention a rise in Conspiracy theories around the idea of the virus all being a hoax and part of government plans. These conspiracy theories have been found to not only be directed to people of Asian descent but also Muslims, African Americans, etc. In certain places in Europe, it has also been directed to people of Jewish faith. Consequently, leading to the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. In particular, this surge of anti-Semitism includes a range of people that all believe The Jews, the Zionists, and/or the State of Israel are to blame for the pandemic and/or stand to gain from it (AFTAU news). These views have mostly been adopted by right-wing extremists, ultra-conservative Christians, and Islamists and shared through their media and preaching's. A recent Oxford study based on his surge revealed that 1 in 5 English people believe that Jewish people created COVID-19 (COVID is a Jewish conspiracy - survey). Along with this theory it is believed that the Jewish people have created the virus for financial gain which as previously mentioned is a huge stereotype based on anti-Semitism. In Britain, another survey was conducted in which it demonstrated that 13% of Britain's believe that Jewish people have "undue control of banks"(COVID is a Jewish conspiracy - survey). This is relevant because it demonstrates that the coronavirus has given prejudice people a motif for their anti-Semitism as they use their prejudice to create prejudice conspiracy theories thus being responsible for the continuing rise of anti-Semitism in Europe today. Another aspect is that due to the worldwide quarantine and lockdown taking place during the Covid-19 Outbreak there has been a rise of online hate directed towards Jewish people. More specifically Online anti-Semitic incidents rose 4% in the U.K. from January to June in which the monitoring organization warned that the pandemic and lockdown measures have fostered for this.(Woodyatt). The Organization also recognized that the numbers do not

fully represent the scale of this problem as these only come from the incidents that are reported. As of 2020 there were 344 reported online incidents between January and June, compared to 332 during the same period in 2019 (Woodyatt). This is relevant because it establishes another aspect of anti-Semitism's existence today caused by the effects of the Coronavirus more specifically quarantines and lockdowns. In consequence, anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today due to the outbreak of Coronavirus and its protocols.

The next aspect to analyze when looking at why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today is the increased focus on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Israel is known as the world's only Jewish state. It is found east of the Mediterranean Sea at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Palestinians are the people of Palestine. They were known as the Arabic population that comes from the land that Israel controls. The Palestinians want to establish a state on that same land or part of it and become more independent. In which the conflict is over who gets the land and how it is controlled. Specifically, the Jewish who were running away from persecution in Europe wanted to create a homeland in the land that was already known as Palestine territory. In which the Palestinians resisted. The United Nations tried to make a plan for the 2 rivals to share/split the land in an attempt to prevent war, but it failed, and several wars followed. The Israeli and Palestinian Government both do not think either side is in any place to make a beneficial deal to solve the conflict. Nor does the Palestinian government trust the Israeli Government. Due to this the conflict is prolonged and there has been no actual beneficial change. Other outsider nations have tried to ease the conflict. For example, the ongoing peace process set up by America. This is a meditated effort to broker a peace treaty between Israelis and Palestinians. This issue overall has been very much in the public eye and is very well known around the world allowing for people to have various opinions on this rivalry. Most countries are

very condemning of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and more sympathetic towards them. As a result of this conflict, the Israeli Government has enforced severe and discriminatory restrictions on Palestinians and their human rights (World Report 2019: Rights Trends in Israel and Palestine). As well as restricting the movement of Palestinians and goods in and out of the Gaza strip. This is a strip of land that is surrounded by Israel but populated by Palestinians. As a result of demonstrations for the right of Palestinians on the Gaza strip excessive force was brought by Israel, leaving casualties of children, medical workers, and many others wounded. As mentioned, this conflict is known worldwide. In relation to this a poll was done with 22 countries, Israel was the fourth most disliked nation in the world (Locke, Israel-Palestine). This is what causes for Israel to be very unpopular worldwide. Overall, due to this conflict between Israel and Palestine and the knowledge of it worldwide, it is responsible for the rising of anti-Semitism in Europe today. For example, amid the conflict, across Europe Jewish people were experiencing backlash, threats, hate speech, and violent attacks. It is known that these anti-Semitic attacks tended to be in correlation to different events of violence within the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. An example would be the aftermath of attacks sent by Israel in the Gaza strip. More specifically, in August of 2014 two men were detained as they were suspected of throwing firebombs into the city's new synagogue. Another incident of a beer bottle being thrown in home of known anti-Semitic critics, followed by anti-Jewish slurs being yelled were also noted. In addition, there was also incidents of anonymous calls to the Rabbi threatening murder(Gaza conflict: France criticises 'anti-Semitic' riot). This is relevant because it demonstrates an increased number of attacks directed to people of the Jewish faith. This is due to the rise of knowledge about the conflict between Israel and Palestine and the Gaza strip, as attacks against Jewish people are increased as the events with the conflict intensify. Another

aspect is also after the start of the Gaza conflict there was an anti-Semitic protest in Sarcelles Paris. During the protest Jewish-owned businesses, and synagogues were targeted, shops were looted, and Jewish slurs were yelled around the city. There were also pro-Palestinian rallies which in itself does not sound bad but during these rallies anti-Semitic slogans were chanted by protesters. Aside from this other authorized rallies were held all around France. Following other attacks in France, and the Gaza conflict. In 2014 about 7238 Jews left France to go back to Israel. The following year the number rose to 7835 (Jews fleeing France).These come after the numbers for anti- Semitism in France skyrocketed and continue to skyrocket. In more specifics, A survey published in January 2020 indicated that 34% of French Jews were the victim of anti-Semitic slurs or incidents and 70% said they live with fear. (Jews fleeing France). This is relevant because it establishes how the conflict between Israel and Palestine has caused a rise of anti- Semitism in European countries like France. Thus anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today due to the increased focus on the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

To sum up everything that has been stated, anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today. Specifically, Holocaust denial, the coronavirus outbreak, and the conflict between Israel and Palestine all perceptibly illustrate why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today. Holocaust denial is very disheartening as it tries to silence the abuse and pain of the Jewish people. In both forms, Holocaust denial is known as the act of denying the Nazi Genocide of Jewish people in the Holocaust during its time. holocaust denial is a very evident issue in Europe today as statistics have demonstrated that people are aware and do believe that it is a problem in their country. Accompanied by recognition from the European Human Rights Convention as they expressed that Holocaust denial is not a freedom of speech protected under the law. Despite this,

the idea of the Holocaust never existing or not existing to the extent it did, still has a voice in Europe and continues to cause pain for the Jewish people that live there. Along with Holocaust denial, the 2020 outbreak of Coronavirus also known as Covid-19 has had an impact on why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today. As a result of the outbreak, countries were able to show resilience and unity as they put in efforts to stop the spread of the virus, but it has also brought on great division. For example, the conspiracy theories that are based on very anti-Semitic ideologies. For example, the conspiracy theory that the Jewish people created the coronavirus as a hoax for financial gain. The idea that Jewish people would do anything for money and are very greedy comes from a long history of anti-Semitism and is one of the biggest stereotypes placed on Jewish people. With surveys and study's done it has been recognized that these views do exist in Europe and can be held responsible for a rise in anti-Semitism.

Furthermore, due to the spread of Covid-19 and protocols like worldwide lockdowns and quarantine, online Anti- Semitic incidents rose. The initiation of lockdown gave people another platform to spread their hate and continue to help the rise of anti-Semitism. Finally, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine also factors into why anti-Semitism still exists in Europe today. The Palestinian and Israeli conflict was over land and control and has been very much broadcasted to the world for countries everywhere to make opinions on the issue. As a result of the conflict, Israel has been looked down on for the vicious and violent ways they have been dealing with the discord and more people are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. Amid all the conflict in other European countries, Jewish people have experienced backlash, threats, hate speech, and violent attacks like the burning of the synagogue, anti-Semitic protest like the one in Sarcelles Paris, the destroying of Jewish businesses and more. Not to mention a rise in attacks against Jewish people in France after the beginning of the Gaza conflict which caused many

French Jewish people to flee the country out of fear. All these aspects are relevant because they demonstrate an evident rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and the prevailing of it today. All in all, Europe has a long history of anti-Semitism and hatred directed towards people of the Jewish faith that can be dated back way farther than the age of the Holocaust. Many ideals have evolved over time, especially in today's society where ancient ideas of racism, discrimination, sexism and more are being challenged. Although, as demonstrated, there are still many issues today that are fueled by prejudice toward Jewish people. The world has come very far in its change on ideals of anti-Semitism, but it still has a long way to go in the aspect of finding other ways to efficiently deal with conflict and ideals that people adopt that includes subject matters fueled by anti-Semitism. With more and more emphasis being put on nationality, individuality, beliefs, and overall respect for everyone and their cultures it is very important that things evolve from its risen state to ensure the safety of the people of Jewish faith and the overall stand in moral fairness.

Colour Code Explanation

Thesis Sentence

Topic Sentence in body paragraph 1 and topic sentence WITH transition in body paragraph 2

Support – note the parenthetical reference at the end of the source used to support the claim.

Relevancy – the very important step where you tell me how your claim and parenthetically referenced proof support the focus of the body paragraph.

Concluding sentence

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