

Why Us?

Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories

Exodus 1:8

וַיָּקָם מֶלֶךְ-חָדָשׁ עַל-מִצְרָיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדַע אֶת-יֹסֵף:

A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.

Etz Chayim Commentary:

Pharaoh knew that Joseph had saved Egypt but did not care. He did not let the information change his outlook. (Mishnat Rabbi Eliezer) Through much of Jewish history, the people's well-being depended on the goodwill of a ruler. When the leadership changed, the fortunes of the Jewish community often changed as well. Pharaoh begins by refusing to acknowledge Joseph, and later refusing to acknowledge God, saying, "Who is the Eternal that I should heed God?" מי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר אֲשַׁמַּע בְּקִלְיוֹ לְשַׁלַּח אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אֶת-יְהוָה (Exodus 5:2)

Esther 3:5-6

וַיִּרְא הָמֶן כִּי-אִין מְרַדְּכִי כָרַע וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הָמֶן חֶמָה: וַיִּבֹז בְּעֵינָיו לְשַׁלַּח יָד בְּמֶרְדֵּכִי לְבַדּוֹ כִּי-הִגִּידוּ לוֹ אֶת-עַם מְרַדְּכִי וַיִּבְקֹשׁ הָמֶן לְהַשְׁמִיד אֶת-כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מְלָכוֹת אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ עִם מְרַדְּכִי:

When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow to him, Haman was filled with rage. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone; having been told who Mordecai's people were, Haman plotted to do away with all the Jews, Mordecai's people, throughout the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus.

A Unique Bigotry

Hatred of the Jews is old as the Jewish people, and as varied as humanity.

According to antisemites, Jews are at once subhuman (vermin) and superhuman (controlling the world).

Antisemitism can morph into whatever one imagines – it is a “self-sealing” theory.

It exists on the right, the center, and the left.

Antisemitism is not a Jewish problem and does not have a Jewish answer. It is a human problem.

Natan Sharansky's 3-D Test

To determine if criticism of the State of Israel is antisemitic, consider if the criticism includes:

Delegitimization of Israel

Demonization of Israel

Double standards – holding Israel to standards different than those for other countries

Conspiracy Theory

A belief that some covert but influential organization is responsible for a circumstance or event. (*American Jewish Committee*)

A false interpretation of a matter that explains its subject as the result of a conspiratorial undertaking. For example, a conspiracy theorist might claim that a nation is secretly under the control of some sort of cabal rather than by its actual government. Conspiracy theories often emerge from a desire to seek larger, more complex answers to incidents that are actually relatively straightforward in nature. They can also be created by people seeking to delegitimize unwelcome events. For example, anti-government extremists, unwilling to accept that some of their own committed the Oklahoma City bombing, constructed a conspiracy theory that the federal government had deliberately bombed its own federal building. Finally, some conspiracy theories can be used to demonize groups of people, as antisemitic conspiracy theories do. (*ADL*)

A Few Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories

Blood Libel

Control - Capitalism & Communism

Deadly Exchange - Israel & Police Brutality

Deicide

Dual Loyalty

Elders of Zion

Globalism

Great Replacement Theory

Kosher Tax

New World Order

QAnon

Rothschilds

Slavery

Soros

Zionism is Racism

Great Replacement