

## **Hate in the Time of Coronavirus: Five Themes of Antisemitic Discourse On Social Media**

Antisemitism, by its very nature, feeds off of people's fears and uncertainties about the world. It is no coincidence then that in our present moment, as the coronavirus continues to spread across the globe, we have seen growing efforts to exploit and hijack fear and uncertainty and turn it against the Jewish people. Over the last weeks, antisemitism has exploded across social media. Here, we look at five interrelated themes of antisemitic expressions in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

### **1. Jews as the REAL virus**

It is an ancient trope that Jews are like a parasite or virus, infecting and destroying all they touch. This trope is closely linked to a broader theory that emerged during the Enlightenment of "world Jewry" as an organized international cabal that exploits and feeds off of their "host" societies. The Nazis made particular use of this trope in their communications and propaganda, frequently comparing Jews to parasites, viruses, vermin and other pests.

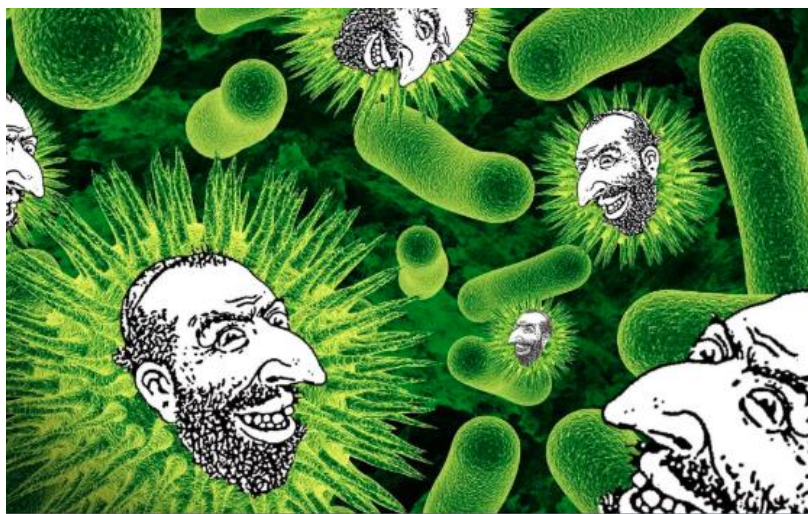


These images are just three examples of Nazi propaganda depicting Jews as a sickness and parasite. The first image, produced in German-occupied Poland in 1944, compares the "Jew louse" to "spotted typhus". The second image, published in *Der Stürmer* in 1944, depicts Jews marked with the Star of David as horrific vermin eating off the world. The third image, from occupied Denmark in the early 1940s, portrays Jews as diseased rats.

In the context of an actual viral pandemic that we are living through today, antisemites have seized on this ancient trope, depicting Jews – and by extension, Israel - as the hidden but very real virus people should be afraid of.



Source: <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>



Source: White supremacist website The Daily Stormer.  
<https://dailystormer.su/jews-panic-over-accusations-that-the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-a-jewish-plot/>

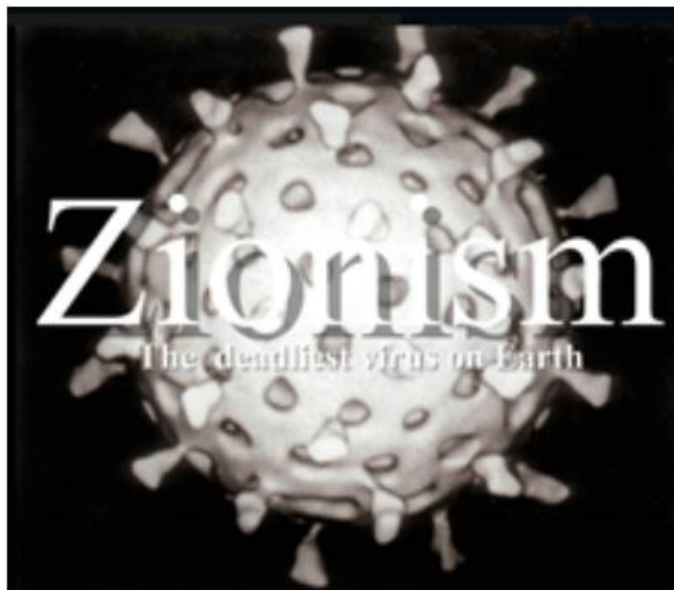




 @bashar\_165 · Apr 20  
The **Zionist** occupation is an integral part of the **Corona** Virus family  
The occupation has besieged the Gaza Strip for more than 14 years, and the world is not moving.  
[#covid48](#)

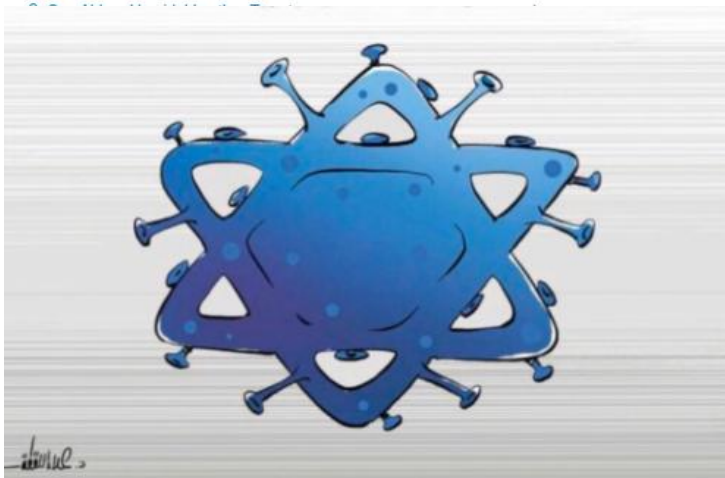
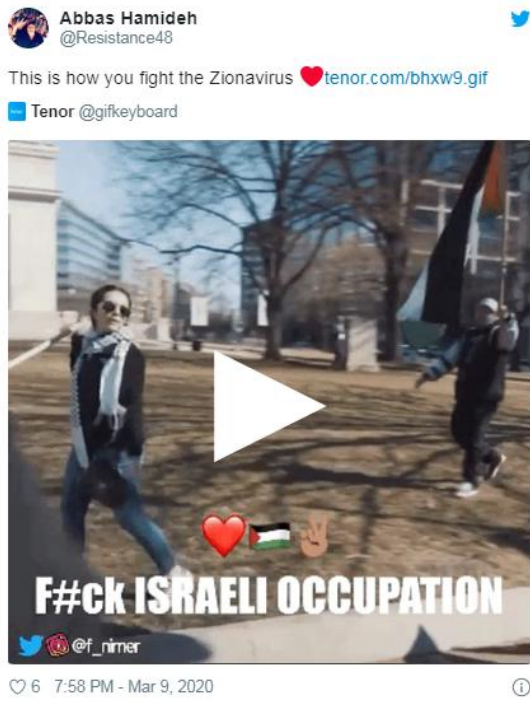


#AIPAC appears to have become the epicenter for the most influential spread of Corona Virus in the United States and North America...  
Could Almighty God be trying to send us a message that Zionism is a Deadly Virus?



Source: Facebook. As captured by ADL <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>

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Source: Anti-Israel publication Mondoweiss

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Source: <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>

## 2. Jews as Manufacturers of the Virus

A second antisemitic trope that has seen a renaissance in our current moment of global pandemic also draws on very old allegations of worldwide Jewish conspiracy to destroy the non-Jewish world. In this iteration, mass sickness is understood to be caused directly by the concerted efforts of Jews to spread disease. While this trope is ancient in origins, it played a particularly important role during outbreaks of Plague, or Black Death, which swept across Europe between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The myth that Plague was a disease intentionally spread by Jews who poisoned the wells of non-Jewish settlements lead to persecution and violence against Jewish communities throughout Europe.



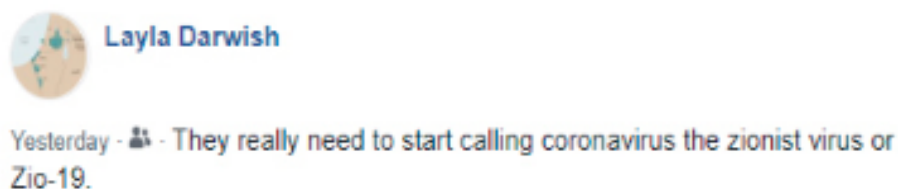
These images depict the murder of Jews, alleged to be the cause of Plague, in Medieval Europe. This first image, from 1349, depicts a massacre of Jewish townsfolk following an outbreak in Belgium. The second image depicts the 1349 pogrom in Strasbourg, Austria, in which hundreds of Jews were publically burned to death.

Today, we are seeing on social media an outbreak of similar allegations to those which caused such devastation to Jewish communities during the Middle Ages. Jews in general, and sometimes powerful/influential Jews in particular, are being blamed for creating and spreading the coronavirus across the world. This theory has been expressed most clearly, perhaps, by Turkish politicians and news commentators who allege that “Zionists” are guilty of manufacturing the coronavirus in a bio-lab and releasing it in order to kill off parts of the world population. According to politician Fatih Erbakan, “this virus serves Zionism's goals of decreasing the number of people and preventing it from increasing.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/coronavirus-is-a-zionist-plot-say-turkish-politicians-media-public-621393>



Note: David Clarke is a retired police Sheriff from Wisconsin, USA.





 **Maria Cristina Gutierrez**  
29 February at 16:29 · 🌐

CORONAVIRUS, LIKE IN EVERY DISEASE THAT CREATE PANIC AMONG THE PEOPLE, AND EVERY ONE STARTS BLAMING EACH OTHER, IN THIS CASE THE CHINESE, I AM A BELIEVER THAT THE HANDS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL, THE BIG CORPORATIONS, THE IMPERIALIST, THE ZIONIST ARE BEHIND IT. THAT IS WHY WE NEED TO OVERTHROW CAPITALISM, IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM,

 **amirhali** @Amir77889 · Mar 12

Covid19 **Coronavirus** is propaganda. Israel **zionists** work with the anti christ & control the western world economy & media (most powerful weapon). fear is spread so when elite funded scientists find a 'solution vaccine' it will apparently 'prevent' the virus **#depopulation** Agenda 21


 **Muhammad Afnaan**  
@m\_afnaan

Replying to @Praecursor007

Nice job Israel. Creating the  
antidote after creating the disease  
eh?

15:18 · 29 Feb 20 · [Twitter Web App](#)

3 Likes

 **Abdullah Bozkurt**  
@abdbozkurt

Jews, Zionists have organized & engineered **#Corona** virus as biological weapon just like bird flue & Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF).

They want to design the world, seize countries, neuter the world's population.

Comments on President **#Erdogan's** TV network in **#Turkey**



Note: Abdullah Bozkurt is the Ankara Bureau Chief for Turkey's best selling English daily newspaper, Today's Zaman,

← Tweet



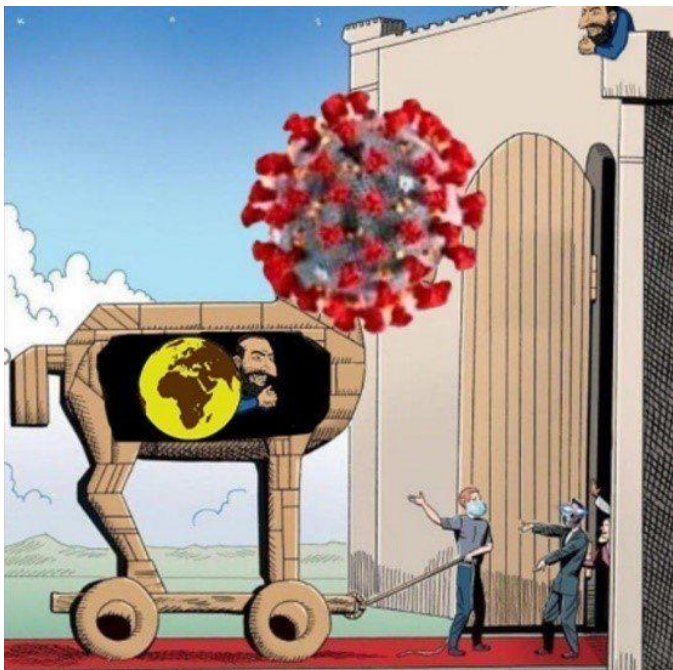
**Felix Carrasquillo Jr**  
@Phylistic

There has to be an international arrest warrant issue against Bill Gates for Virus and vaccines crimes against humanity--- a lot of people are waking up to the fact that the coronavirus is a Jew organize crime created hoax intended to coverup Jew organize crime being carried out



**michael**  
@paleridershit2

Also avoid take-out where jews deliberately lace your take-out w/ coronavirus 🚫🚫🚫



Source: Telegram. Captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)



Note: David Duke is the former “Grand Wizard” of the Ku Klux Klan



Source: Gab. Captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)

Another theme found across social media as the coronavirus crisis deepens draws on the idea that Jews are using the epidemic as an opportunity to murder Arabs. This theme picks up on widespread portrayals of Jews as bloodthirsty murderers of Arabs propagated by anti-Israel and terrorist organizations over the last 70 years. Like other modern expressions of hate, this theme finds its roots in ancient tropes about Jews as demonic, possessed and evil beings who cause misery to others for either spiritual reasons or simply for pleasure. Historically, there have been many variants of these antisemitic blood libels throughout both the Christian and Muslim worlds – from accusations that Jews murder children to use their blood for satanic rituals, to claims that *matzot* is made from human blood, to allegations that Jews practice human sacrifice – which have resulted in countless pogroms, massacres and other violence against Jewish communities.



The first image here is the cover of the 1983 antisemitic bestselling book *The Matzah of Zion*, which depicts Syrian Jews as they zealously cut a man's throat and collect his blood. The book argues that blood libels that led to the 1940 massacre of Jews in Damascus were true and that the massacre was justified. The second image is from an antisemitic flyer distributed in Kiev in 1915. It portrays a dead child and reads, "Christians, take care of your children!!! It will be Jewish Passover on 17 March." The third image, shared by an anti-Israel activist on Facebook in 2017, depicts a demonic Jew about to kill and suck the blood of a Palestinian child.

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the virus; and claims that Israel is using the virus as a pretense to take over Muslim holy sites.





Note: California State University professor Asad Abukhalil suggests in Arabic that there is an Israeli plan to deprive Arabs of access to a potential vaccine.



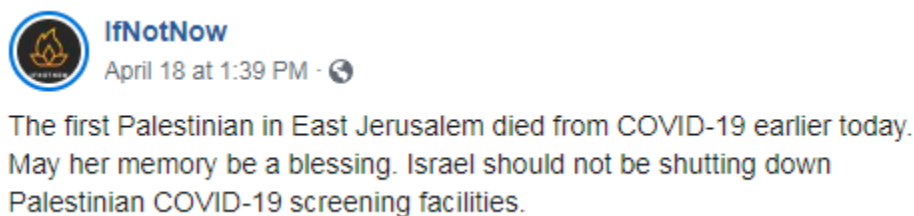
Note: Ariel Gold is the National Director of US-based anti-Israel organization Codepink.



Source: Captured on Facebook. Original source is Mustadafin World Front Information Center [www.mwfpres.com](http://www.mwfpres.com)



Note: Asad Abukhalil is a professor at California State University



Note: IfNotNow is an anti-Israel organization based in the US



Source: Captured on Facebook. Original source is Mustadafin World Front Information Center [www.mwfpress.com](http://www.mwfpress.com)







NOTE: Kenneth Roth is the Executive Director of New York-based Human Rights Watch



Source: Anti-Israel news website Mondoweiss, [www.mondoweiss.net](http://www.mondoweiss.net)



Source: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 16, 2020



#### 4. **Jews as Profiteers of the Virus**

From all the antisemitic vitriol growing on social media as the coronavirus pandemic unfolds, we can observe the repeated depictions of Jews as profiteers of the virus. Like other modern antisemitic themes, this draws on old conspiracy theories about Jewish control of the banking system and tropes about Jews as usurers and profiteers from the misery of others. While these allegations date back to Medieval times, they were crystallized most succinctly in the 1903 text of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a fabricated work purporting to lay out the Jewish plan for world financial domination.



Here we see old depictions of Jewish financiers celebrating their riches. The first image is from a 1851 German newspaper, portraying the glee of Jewish financiers as the population suffers. The second is from a 1944 Italian poster, depicting Jewish bankers from all countries clutching the profits earned from the death of others.

Similarly, in the coronavirus age we are seeing on social media Jews being portrayed as merciless financial exploiters of sickness and misery.



Source: Telegram. Captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)

Les #Rothschild et les crises mondiales #Coronavirus



Source: Twitter. Captured by ADL

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The White Space



Of course its a real outbreak. Just like SARS, bird flu and all the other recent epidemics. Hmm? You never hear about them anymore? Well that's ok we have other hoaxes planned. I meant epidemics. What? There was a Corona virus vaccine patent applied for before the outbreak? Nonsense. Quick! People are dying, we must get them vaccinated! Looks like a vaccine is available soon. Aren't you all so lucky goyim? Heh heh.

© 2487 12:18 AM

Source: Telegram. Captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)

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## 5. Jews as Deserving of Suffering

As long as antisemitism has existed, it has been underpinned by the idea that Jews are deserving of suffering or that misery endured by Jews are some form of divine justice. Across social media, we have seen calls to infect Jews with the coronavirus as well as expressions of glee as Jewish fatalities from the virus are reported.

The following are responses to reports from Israel of its first coronavirus death, an 88 year old Holocaust survivor.



Note: This account belongs to Leen Dweik, a former leader of the NYU chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine.





We are also seeing on social media directives to infect Jews with coronavirus and expressions of hope that Jews will die from coronavirus.



Source: Simon Wiesenthal Center





Source: Facebook. As captured by ADL  
[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)



Source: 4chan As captured by ADL  
[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)



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CORONA VIRUS EARLY SIGNS AND WHAT TO DO?

- 1 A runny nose - walk around in a neighbourhood with a lot of auslanders
- 2 A cough and/or sore throat - Immediately find a place where there's a lot of Jews
- 3 A high temperature - visit your local vegan bar
- 4 Feeling tired - visit tv studios or take the tours
- 5 Difficulty breathing - visit your local mosque

Combined? Visit Jerusalem and other Jew places

11:12:23

Source: Telegram. As captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)



sorry i haven't been around for a while. i just found out i have the most serious strain of the coronavirus. ima head over to my nearest synagogue. wish me luck 🤞

1825 7:29 PM

Source: Telegram. As captured by ADL

[https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max\\_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X](https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/styles/max_650x650/public/2020-03/telegram%20trojan%20horse.jpg?itok=K2tNO13X)