

Choveret Anti-Semitism



**9TH VEIDA
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ISRAEL 2019

Summary

1. Kinds of Antisemitism.....	3
2. France hit by 69% rise in anti-Semitic acts	6
3. Ranking of anti-Semitism in Latin America.....	10
4. Experts warn that anti-Semitism in social networks becomes "normal"	12
5. Questions	14
6. References	15



1. Kinds of Antisemitism

Excerpt from interview with Professor Christopher Browning

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington

March 1997, Tacoma, Washington

Interviewer: Ephraim Kaye

Q- Dr. Daniel Goldhagen, in his book *Hitler's Willing Executioners — Ordinary Germans in the Holocaust* mentions a unique type of antisemitism — “eliminationist antisemitism.” Prof. Shaul Friedlaender in his book *Nazi Germany and the Jews* talks about “redemptive antisemitism.” If you would comment on the eliminationist vs. redemptive antisemitism, where do you stand?

B- Well, I think a third person who's used a similar phrase is Gavin Langmuir, who talks about “chimeric antisemitism.” About this notion that there is a kind of fantastic, hallucinatory, deeply obsessive antisemitism, I think all scholars would agree. The question is, does that encompass all Germans or certain Germans, or does it encompass certain Germans and other antisemites in other countries, so that it is not a unique German obsessive phenomenon, but it is one layer of European antisemitism that is manifested in many different European countries. My own feeling is that indeed you can find eliminationist or redemptive or chimeric antisemites in different countries in Europe.

One thing that separates German antisemitism from others is that it's the only country where a deeply-committed antisemitic regime actually takes power, and that is absolutely essential. However, I don't think one can read that to say the vast bulk of the German population were redemptive antisemites or eliminationist antisemites or chimeric antisemites. The distinction that, for instance, Gavin Langmuir makes is that what he calls

xenophobic anti-Semitism — the broader social antagonism towards the Jews — is the fertile ground in which chimeric antisemitism grows. It is the seedbed for the sprouting of this chimeric antisemitism, eliminationist antisemitism. I think this is the stance in Saul Friedlaender's book — that redemptive antisemitism is one slice of the antisemitic spectrum in Germany. It is not a concept, I think, that he applies to all Germans; at least I would not use it in that way.

Q- Something else that comes up in your book, as well as with Goldhagen, goes back to the question of how the Nazi perpetrators treat the Poles. Poles were also killed. How were they treated in parallel to how the Jews were treated?

B- I think certainly here we see a difference in government policy. The ultimate policy the Nazis reached towards Jews was total genocide, the attempt to kill every last man, woman, and child of Jewish origin in Europe. The policy towards the Poles was denationalization, what we might now call “cultural genocide”: a destruction of their educational institutions, their ruling classes, their élites, to erase the notion of Polish identity so that Poles become a denationalized reservoir of slave labor, and that as a population they can be decimated, they can be moved, expelled, moved further East. But there was no Nazi design to kill every last Pole, man, woman, and child. Clearly there was a difference in policy as well as in German attitudes towards Poles. Certainly we know that they came to the East with a fair contempt towards Slavic life as well as Jewish life. For many in fact, they could behave as brutally towards Poles as Jews in terms of personal inclination, but certainly the government policies were different in this regard.

If we want to pursue this — the notion of perpetrators and the national identity of victims — then one reason why I'm hesitant to make a single linear sort of explanation — from antisemitism to Germans to Holocaust perpetrators to the murder of European Jews — is, of course, that many of the perpetrators actually began their careers as mass murderers by killing groups

other than Jews. Many of the euthanasia personnel who manned the death camps began by killing Germany's mentally ill. Certainly the first mass murder in the Soviet Union was that of Soviet prisoners of war rather than Jews. By April 1942, over two million Russian prisoners of war had perished. At that point, that was a body count well ahead of the number of Jews that the Nazis had murdered. Thus, something has to fit into the equation beyond simply antisemitic motivation. There was something in this regime and the way it related to its people that enabled them to harness a population to carry out mass murder on a staggering scale even if there had never been any Jewish victims. The Nazis will go down in history as a terrible mass murder regime, even if there had not been a Holocaust. We do know, of course, in the end, that the murder of Jews became the primary program of mass murder, but that was not necessarily apparent before the spring of 1942.

Q- How would you explain the number of photographs that have been found — that were published in your book and Goldhagen's book, that are at Yad Vashem, of German soldiers — Wehrmacht — humiliating Jews in Lomza and other places. Why would they carry these pictures with them?

B- I asked a friend once who'd been in Vietnam, did you take pictures? He said, we took pictures all the time. I don't think the fact that some people take pictures of this is a proof of how broadly or how pervasively everyone in the particular unit is involved or that they all have the same kind of motivation. Surely we have pictures of this triumphalism, of these souvenir photos of their domination and exhilaration as the master race. I don't think this is such a surprising phenomenon that it requires a kind of exceptional explanation .

Source: The Multimedia CD 'Eclipse Of Humanity', Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 2000.

2. France hit by 69% rise in anti-Semitic acts

By Saskya Vandoorne and James Masters, CNN

Updated 1223 GMT (2023 HKT) November 9, 2018



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has announced new plans to tackle anti-Semitism.

Paris (CNN)Anti-Semitic acts in France increased by 69% in the first nine months of 2018, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Friday.

In a statement released on the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht -- a pogrom carried out by the Nazis against Germany's Jewish community in 1938 -- Philippe announced a new task force to improve education and deal with anti-Semitism in schools.

Kristallnacht led to nearly 100 Jews being killed, 30,000 men arrested, over 1,000 synagogues burnt and more than 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

"It was 80 years ago, to the day. On November 9, 1938, the Nazis inflicted on Germany a night of systematic violence, against synagogues, Jewish-owned shops, and Jewish homes," Philippe wrote in a post on Facebook.

"The ominous sound of broken windows gave its name to this terrible episode in history: the Night of Broken Glass.

"Why remember, in 2018, such a painful memory?"



Jewish-owned shops and businesses were destroyed across Germany on Kristallnacht.

"Because we are very far from having finished with anti-Semitism. I have just read the most recent figures in relation to the rise of anti-Semitic acts in our country. They cannot be ignored. While they were declining over the past two years, these acts have now increased by more than 69% in the first nine months of 2018."

After a record year in 2015, anti-Semitic acts fell sharply, by 58%, in 2016. They continued to fall in 2017, decreasing by 7%, though this masked an increase in violent acts targeting Jews.

The nature of anti-Semitic acts has changed drastically in recent years, manifesting itself in violence that has seen 11 people since killed since 2006.

In 2015, a gunman killed four people in a kosher supermarket in Paris as a horrified world watched on television. Three years earlier, four people including

three young children were gunned down in an attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse, shocking the country.

This year, hundreds took to the streets to protest after Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old French Holocaust survivor, was murdered in her apartment in what French authorities have described as an anti-Semitic hate crime.

Philippe says the government will now step up its fight against anti-Semitism, racism and homophobia, calling on every French citizen to "mobilize for life together, for the identity of France and for the values of the Republic."



Mireille Knoll an 85-year-old, was murdered in an anti-Semitic attack earlier this year.

Philippe announced the mobilization of a national team tasked with educating children in schools across the country on the dangers of anti-Semitism.

He also promised to make tackling online hate speech a national priority, as well as introducing an anti-racism prize named after Ilan Halimi, a 23-year-old tortured and murdered in an anti-Semitic attack in 2006.

There are also plans for an online complaint procedure to allow users to register attacks with authorities.

Speaking to CNN, Francis Kalifat, president of CRIF, the umbrella body for the French Jewish community, said it was time for action rather than more plans.

"Our first observation is that violent acts are a daily occurrence and they have existed for a long time," Kalifat said.

"We want the fight against anti-Semitism to be treated differently so that it is no longer treated with other hateful acts. Because all hateful acts do not spring from the same place.

"Our second observation is that we keep going from 'government plan' to 'government plan' but the figures show that this succession of 'plans' doesn't give results. It's time to stop the 'plans' and take action."

Philippe's announcement comes a day after the French government backed down over apparent plans to pay tribute to Marshal Philippe Pétain -- who collaborated with the Nazis in the deportation of Jews from France during World War II -- as part of commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

This story has been updated to correct the name of the 85-year-old Holocaust survivor who was murdered.

CNN's Saskya Vandoorne reported from France. James Masters wrote from London. Anne-Dominique Correa contributed to this report.



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3. Ranking of anti-Semitism in Latin America

A global survey of the Anti-Defamation League, based in the US, revealed that regional rejection of Jews is only surpassed in the Middle East and Eastern Europe

The ADL Global 100, which is defined as "an index of anti-Semitism," conducted a worldwide survey of 53,100 people in 102 countries. The objective of this study, unprecedented in its magnitude, was to establish the level and intensity of anti-Jewish feelings on the planet.

The most relevant fact is that 26% of adults around the world manifested anti-Semitic attitudes. If we consider the total population of the surveyed countries, it would be 1.090 million people.

Equally or more worrying than prejudices is ignorance. The study showed that 46% of people had never heard of the Holocaust.

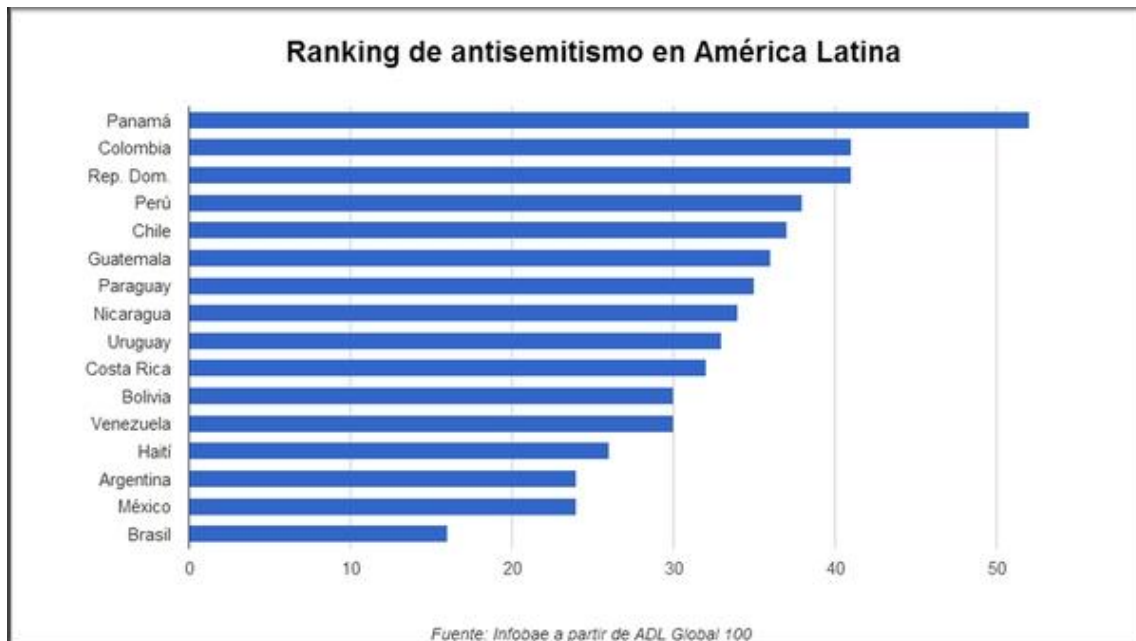
The index is composed of 11 statements usually spread by anti-Semitic discourse. "Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their country," "Jews have a lot of power in the business world," "Jews have a lot of power in international financial markets," "Jews talk too much about what they happened in the Holocaust, "" Jews only care about what happens to them, "" Jews have a lot of control over global issues, "" Jews have a lot of control over the United States Government, "" The Jews Jews believe they are better than other peoples, "" Jews have a lot of control over the global media, "" Jews are responsible for most of the wars in the world, "and" People hate Jews for the sake of way they behave. "

The index considers that an interviewee has anti-Semitic inclinations when he assures that at least 6 of those 11 affirmations are "probably true".

The region with the highest levels of rejection of Judaism is the Middle East and North Africa, with 74 percent. The Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip and

the West Bank are the most prejudiced. 93% believe that the sentences are true.

Then come Iraq, Yemen and Algeria, with 92%, 88% and 87%, respectively. Perhaps unexpectedly, the country with the least prejudice is Iran, with 56 percent.



The second subcontinent in levels of discrimination is Eastern Europe, which averages 34 percent. Then follow Western Europe (24%), Sub-Saharan Africa (23%), Asia (22%), America (19%) and Oceania (14%). The country with the greatest tolerance towards Jews is Laos, where only 0.2% discriminate against them.

If, instead of taking America as a whole, Latin America is cut, the region is third, with an average of 33 percent. Panama, with 52%, is the one that has the greatest rejection of Jews. Then come Colombia (41%), Dominican Republic (41%) and Peru (38%).

The least discriminating is Brazil, with 16 percent.

In Argentina and Mexico the average is 24%, and in Haiti, 26%.

4. Experts warn that anti-Semitism in social networks becomes "normal"

The hatred against Jews is expressed more and more frequently and normal in social networks, warned several experts during the international conference "An end to anti-Semitism!", Which ends in Vienna.

"On average, every three minutes there is a comment against Jews on social networks," said Abe Sweiry, a hate crime expert at the British University of Lancaster.

For more than a year, from May 2016 to December 2017, the British researcher has reviewed and analyzed comments on the main social networks.

In that time, he noted that despite periods of peaks of anti-Semitic comments, "like the US presidential elections," these messages are increasingly the "usual tonic" on the Internet, Sweiry said during the conference.

It is an idea shared also by Monika Schwarz-Friesel, head of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Berlin.

The expert has led a study in which reviews have been reviewed in newspapers, YouTube videos and comments on social networks for more than a decade.

Anti-Semitic comments are "ubiquitous", warned Schwarz-Friesel during the conference.

"In almost 15 years, the taboo against Jews has increased at all levels," the number of offensive comments on the Internet has been multiplied by three, he said.

In his speech, Schwarz-Friesel also explained that, contrary to what one might think, the so-called "deep web" (the invisible Internet) is only a "minority part of the slanders" against Jews and other minorities.

As for the reasons for this growth, both Sweiry and Schwarz-Friesel agreed that the Internet makes it possible to hide behind a pseudonym, which makes it easier for many to dare to hurl insults.

The worst thing for Sweiry is that when these offensive comments are made in the forums and Internet networks "have more impact than if they were made on the street."

Through a "retweet" on the Twitter network or a shared publication on the Facebook platform, these messages can reach thousands more users in a matter of minutes.

As Schwarz-Friesel pointed out, anti-Jewish insults on the Internet "perpetuate anti-Semitic stereotypes among users", which, as a rule, are young people.

For its part, Katharina von Schnurbein, coordinator of the European Commission in the fight against anti-Semitism, stressed that since 2008 there is a community legislation against incitement to violence "both online and offline."

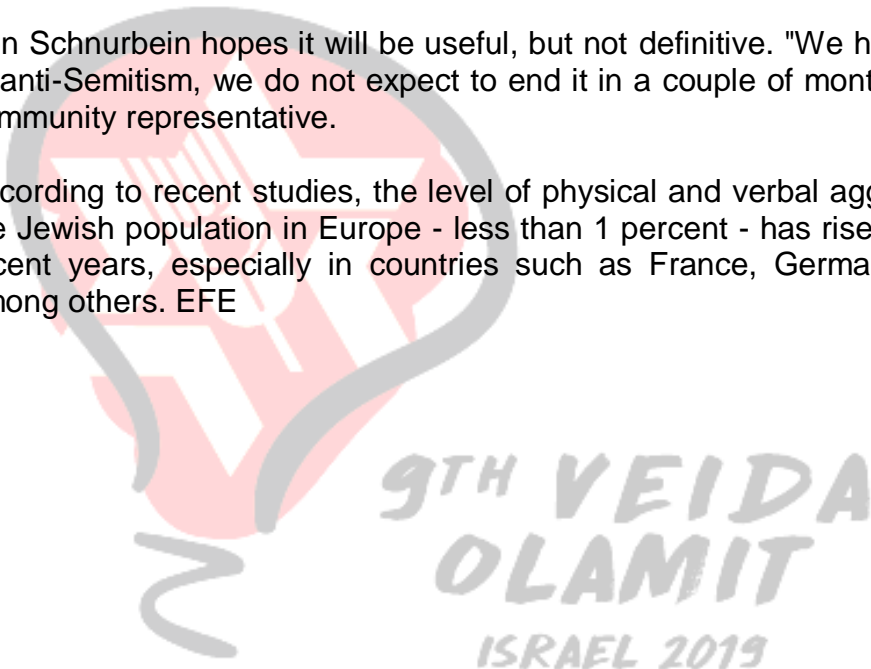
For this, the Commission collaborates with large Internet consortiums such as Facebook, Google and Twitter, which have committed themselves to a "code of conduct".

As Von Schnurbein explained at the Vienna conference, this has already shown an improvement in both the speed of detection and the ability to analyze the offensive comments launched online against Jews.

With the conclusions drawn during the conference, organized by the universities of Vienna, Tel Aviv and New York, the aim is to create a manual of good practices that will be distributed to all the countries of the European Union (EU) to fight better against anti-Semitism.

Von Schnurbein hopes it will be useful, but not definitive. "We have 3,000 years of anti-Semitism, we do not expect to end it in a couple of months", warned the community representative.

According to recent studies, the level of physical and verbal aggression against the Jewish population in Europe - less than 1 percent - has risen significantly in recent years, especially in countries such as France, Germany and Austria, among others. EFE



5. Questions

What is anti-Semitism?

Is Anti-Zionism antisemitism?

Is BDS an anti-Semitic movement?

What is the influence of anti-Semitism on the formation of Jewish identity in the 21st century?

Does anti-Semitism influence the activities of Habonim Dror today? In what way?

Should Habronim Dror take a stand on anti-Semitism?



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