

What Causes Antisemitism

Summary

Antisemitism is not caused by what Jews do. It is caused by what societies need during moments of stress.

The Core Cause

Antisemitism is a scapegoating system. When societies experience economic anxiety, cultural change, political failure, or moral uncertainty, they often seek a group to absorb blame without threatening the majority's self-image. Jews have historically filled this role.

Why Jews, Specifically

1. Visibility without dominance

Jews are visible within societies but small in number, making them identifiable yet relatively safe to target.

2. Ambiguous status

Jews are often perceived as both insiders and outsiders, familiar yet foreign, successful yet vulnerable. This ambiguity invites projection.

3. Narrative adaptability

Jews can be blamed for opposing forces at the same time—capitalism and communism, nationalism and globalism, moral decay and moral superiority. This contradiction shows antisemitism is not about truth, but utility.

4. Psychological convenience

Antisemitism allows societies to externalize guilt, explain failure without self-examination, and feel morally justified while attacking a minority.

What Antisemitism Is Not Caused By

- Jewish behavior or morality
- Jewish success or failure
- Jewish religion or culture
- Jewish power
- Israel

These are post-hoc justifications, not root causes.

The Central Insight

Antisemitism increases when attacking Jews feels useful or safe, not when it feels justified.

Conclusion

Antisemitism is a social pathology, not a Jewish problem. It reflects the condition of the society expressing it more than the actions of Jews themselves. Because its causes are structural and psychological, it cannot be permanently eliminated—only constrained.