

Never Again?
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Slide 1

1. This is the final presentation looking at the anguish and achievement of the Jews throughout history.
2. When we ended last week in about 1810, Enlightenment attitudes had begun the process of politically emancipating Jews in the United States and most of Europe.
3. As we will see today, the freedom to participate in public affairs did not end the hatred and resentment of the Jews that have existed for more than 2300 years.
4. That hatred and resentment, coupled with bogus theories about race, eventually led to the Holocaust, in which six million Jews were killed by the Nazis.
5. After the Nazis were defeated, Jews around the world proclaimed that never again would they suffer such horrors.
6. But more recent developments suggest that “Never Again” may be more a hope than a promise and hostile actions against Jews are happening in our own backyard.

Slide 2

1. We will spend most of the time today in Europe and the United States, but before we get there it is important to spend a little time in the Middle East.
2. As we have seen earlier, with some exceptions, as long as Jews paid a tax equal to the amount Muslims were required to give to charity, they were allowed to practice their religion in Muslim countries without interference as so-called “People of the Book.”
3. That changed significantly when Arab Christians brought to Muslim countries the ancient libel that Jews murder Christians to obtain blood for use in Jewish rituals.
4. In 1840, a friar disappeared in Damascus and local Christians claimed that Jews had killed him **“to use his blood for Passover rituals.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 60.
5. Despite the absence of any evidence to support the claim, 13 of the most notable Jews of the city were accused of murder and tortured, some until they died.
6. Local citizens attacked and pillaged a local synagogue.
7. At the request of American Jews, the government of President Martin Van Buren protested what became known as the “Damascus Affair,” the first time the United States had taken a position on the treatment of Jews outside the United States.

8. Unfounded charges of ritual murder were repeated in other Muslim-controlled areas, as shown in this Arabic language book from the period.
9. Christians were involved in bringing anti-Jewish violence to the Middle East, where it has stayed.

Slide 3

1. With the emancipation of the Jews in most of Europe near the end of the eighteenth century, they could now engage in occupations previously barred to them.
2. Because of their long traditions of learning and discipline, **“Jews were admirably prepared to compete in a society where effort and talent counted more than birth or religion.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 84.
3. As a result, **“Jews achieved striking success as entrepreneurs, bankers, lawyers, journalists, doctors, scientists, scholars and performers.”** *Id.*
4. Some Jews coming of age in the second quarter of the nineteenth century became household names, including composer Felix Mendelssohn, writer Karl Marx, Marcus Goldman, the founder of Goldman Sachs, and Benjamin Disraeli.

Slide 4

1. As had happened before, the success of the Jewish people aroused resentment.
2. As one author notes: **“Upon emancipation . . . many Jews left their ghettos to join the ranks of both capital and labor. . . . Their effective participation in both movements . . . forged new ammunition for the economic and nationalist types of antisemites about to emerge.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 168.
3. One of the most important examples of this new resentment began with Richard Wagner, the German composer.
4. In his twenties, Wagner became convinced that his lack of success was because Jewish composers, including Felix Mendelssohn and Giacomo Meyerbeer, had debased German music, making what he considered his more refined music less desirable.
5. In 1850, he anonymously published an article titled, in English, *Judaism in Music*.
6. Because the anonymous article did not get the coverage he desired, he republished it under his own name in 1869.

Slide 5

1. In his article, Wagner went beyond disparaging Jewish music and attacked the Jewish character, repeating long-standing prejudices.

2. For example, he wrote: “[W]ith all our speaking and writing in favor of Jewish emancipation, we always felt instinctively repelled by any real, active contact with Jews. [The German people have] the most profound repugnance of the Jewish nature.” Perry, *Antisemitism* at 92.
3. He wrote that “the Jew has gone far beyond emancipation. He *rules* and will continue to rule as long as money means power.” *Id.*
4. Wagner concluded his anti-Jewish diatribe with the following: “There is only one possible way of redeeming the Jews from the terrible curse that hangs over them—annihilation.” *Id.* at 93.
5. Whether Wagner meant this statement literally is debatable—that the Nazis took it literally is not.
6. Today, Israel has largely banned the playing of Wagner’s music.

Slide 6

1. The teachings of the Enlightenment we talked about last week reduced the importance of religion as a basis for condemning people.
2. As a result, people with anti-Jewish motives began focusing more on the Jews’ supposed racial inferiority, an idea that helped fuel the Holocaust.
3. Those ideas had their origins in the writings of Arthur de Gobineau, a French aristocrat who became a friend of Richard Wagner.

Slide 7

1. In 1853 de Gobineau published an essay called, in English, *Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races*.
2. Reflecting the racial ideas of his time, de Gobineau first divided humanity into white, yellow and black races, claiming that the white race was inherently superior because it had descended directly from the Biblical Adam.
3. He then argued that the white race should be further divided based on whether or not the language people spoke was derived from Sanskrit.
4. By the middle of the nineteenth century, linguists had concluded that all the major language groups of Europe were related to Sanskrit, the language in which important Hindu writings were originally written.
5. Those writings were attributed to people called Aryans, who conquered northern India in the second millennium B.C.

6. Ignoring the obvious possibilities of conquest or assimilation, de Gobineau concluded that people speaking related languages must be related genetically.
7. So, according to de Gobineau, all Europeans descended from Aryans, who he imagined were all tall, blond and blue eyed despite the fact that we know they came from what is now Iran, a name derived from Aryan.
8. By the same logic, he called people speaking languages similar to Hebrew, including Jews and Arabs, Semites, after Shem, one of the sons of the Biblical Noah.
9. De Gobineau argued that all white Europeans except the blue-eyed people of northern Europe were the product of racial mixing between Aryans and Semites or other non-Aryans.
10. Believing that Aryans were superior to all other races, both physically and mentally, de Gobineau advocated that there be no further racial mixing, which he believed had already diluted the Aryan characteristics of the French.

Slide 8

1. In 1873, the United States and Europe entered into a financial crisis that lasted until 1879 and became known as the “Long Depression.”
2. Small investors in Europe blamed Jewish financiers for their losses.
3. In 1879, Wilhelm Marr, a German journalist, published a pamphlet titled, in English, *The Victory of the Jewish Spirit over the German Spirit*, warning that “Semites” were beginning to dominate German culture, now using the term “Semite” to refer only to Jews.
4. The following year, Marr published another pamphlet encouraging Germans to oppose Jewish influences in German culture through what he called “antisemitism,” the first published use of that term.
5. Framing antisemitism as a noble cause, Marr formed the League of Antisemites, which advocated that the supposedly inferior Jews be expelled from Germany.
6. Marr’s pamphlets were very popular in Germany and in 1881 300,000 people signed a petition demanding that restrictions be re-imposed on Germany’s Jews.
7. As one author notes: **“The antisemitic movement was off to a fast start.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 180.

Slide 9

1. Antisemitism soon became popular in Russia, which had assumed a large number of Jews when it gained control of parts of Poland in the eighteenth century.

2. In March 1881, Czar Alexander II, who was also King of Poland, was assassinated in St. Petersburg.
3. Without any factual basis, Russians began blaming the Jews.
4. The chief advisor to Czar Alexander III advocated a solution for Russia's supposed Jewish problem – **“one third was to emigrate, one-third was to die, and one-third to disappear (that is, be converted).”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 189-90.
5. Russian citizens were happy to help with the dying part, initiating attacks on Jews that became known as “pogroms” based on the Russian word for devastation.
6. Although the Russian government claimed the pogroms were spontaneous uprisings against Jewish exploitation, it did nothing to stop them and probably encouraged them.
7. **“A hundred Jewish communities were struck; masses of Jews were maimed, murdered, and impoverished as the police stood idly by.”** *Id.* at 190.
8. New laws were enacted restricting educational and occupational opportunities for Jews in the Russian Empire.
9. The pogroms intensified under Czar Nicholas II, who assumed office in 1894 and **“established secret antisemitic organizations, which led to a pogrom in Kishinev in 1903.”** Trepp, *A History of the Jewish Experience* at 198.
10. Starting almost immediately after the pogroms began, about 100,000 Jews each year left the Russian Empire in what one author calls **“the greatest exodus in Jewish history.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 190.
11. Most of them went to the United States, many settling in New York.

Slide 10

1. The racial ideas of de Gobineau and Marr were taken to their limits by Houston Stewart Chamberlain, who admired de Gobineau and married Wagner's daughter.
2. Chamberlain was born in England but admired the Germans so much he became a German citizen.
3. In 1888, he wrote that Germans **“are menaced by a complete moral, intellectual, and material ruin if a strong reaction does not set in in time against the supremacy of the Jews, who feed upon [the Germans] and suck out—at every grade of society—their very life blood.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 95.

Slide 11

1. In 1899, Chamberlain published *Foundation of the Nineteenth Century*, reframing the epic conflicts of history as battles between Aryans and Semites, with the Aryans losing only if they had failed to stay pure.
2. For example, in Chamberlain's telling, the Romans, their once pure Aryan characteristics diluted by miscegenation, were defeated by the purer Germanic invaders.
3. He recast the Reformation as a battle between the Aryan Luther and the racially-polluted Roman Catholic Church.
4. Chamberlain claimed that Jews were now engaged in a world-wide conspiracy to displace the Christians and **“to put [their] foot upon the neck of all nations of the world and be Lord and possessor of the whole earth.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 95.
5. To support his claim that Jews were at war with Christian Aryans, **“Chamberlain denied that Christ was a Jew, claiming that he was of Aryan stock.”** *Id.*
6. Because Chamberlain believed the Germans were the most nearly pure of all Aryan descendants, he argued that Germans were in the best position to counter the Jewish plan of world domination and to take actions to prevent a Jewish takeover.
7. **“[Chamberlain's] massive volume became the accepted textbook for all future antisemitic academicians.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 181.

Slide 12

1. Chamberlain's claim that Jews were out to control the world was not new.
2. **“In 1867, in a series of articles, a [Russian] Jewish convert named Jacob Brafman made the charge that the Jews were linked in a world conspiracy aimed at the exploitation of the gentile world.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 173.
3. In 1879, Wilhelm Marr **“declared Germany the prey of a conquering race, the Jews, a race possessing everything and wanting to Judaize Germany.”** Lazare, *Antisemitism* at 117.
4. In 1886, Edouard Drumont published *La France Juive (Jewish France)*, arguing that **“Jews, racially inferior and believers in a primitive religion, had gained control of France and were plotting to take over all of Europe.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 85.
5. No one seems to have worried about the inconsistency in the claims that a small number of supposedly inferior Jews were somehow about to take over the world.
6. But logic and consistency have never been the hallmarks of antisemitism, which instead is driven largely by fear and resentment.

7. That fear and resentment were reflected in the Dreyfus Affair, described **“as a dress rehearsal for Hitlerism.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 185.

Slide 13

1. Captain Alfred Dreyfus was the only Jewish member of the French general staff.
2. In 1894, based on forged and perjured evidence, he was convicted of spying for Germany and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil’s Island.
3. When people came forward with evidence that Dreyfus was innocent, they were arrested and warned to keep silent.
4. When Emile Zola published evidence that Dreyfus had been framed, he was convicted of libel and fled to England to avoid punishment.
5. Despite overwhelming evidence of Dreyfus’ innocence, much of the French population and the Catholic Church promoted his guilt, supported **“to a large extent by the fact that [Dreyfus] was a Jew.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 187.
6. **“To the partisans, Dreyfus the Jew represented all the liberal, alien, and de-Christianizing pressures on the traditional Christian order of France.”** *Id.*

Slide 14

1. In July 1906, the French government cleared Dreyfus of all charges, but the attitudes of many European Jews about their futures had been changed.
2. Many Jews had previously assumed that if they continued to integrate into their respective societies, they would eventually cease to be seen as a separate people.
3. In 1894, in the classic book that I have cited throughout this series, Jewish Bernard Lazare of France predicted that **“[t]he time will come when [the Jews] . . . shall be merged into the body of the nations, after the same manner as the Phoenicians, who, having planted their trading stations all over Europe, disappeared without leaving a trace behind them.”** Lazare, *Antisemitism* at 180.
4. The Dreyfus Affair destroyed that optimism.

Slide 15

1. Theodore Herzl, a Jewish journalist from Austria, had covered the Dreyfus trial.
2. Seeing the anti-Jewish attitudes shown by Dreyfus’ treatment, Herzl concluded that Jews must have a land of their own, an idea that became known as “Zionism.”
3. He promoted that idea in an 1896 book called *Jewish State* and held the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland in 1897.

4. “[B]efore [Herzl] died in 1904 Zionism was well on its way.” Flannery, *The Manguish of the Jews* at 187.

Slide 16

1. In about 1903, an explosive literary work called, in English, the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* appeared in Russia.
2. Later described as the **“hoax of the century,”** it included purported reports from the first Zionist Congress and other material outlining a Jewish plan for world domination that included **“methods of stupefying Gentiles, controlling the press, finance, and government.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 192.
3. The anti-Bolshevik forces used the *Protocols* to inflame people against the Bolshevik Revolution, which they claimed was **“an attempt by Jews, agents of the Antichrist, to subvert Christian Russia.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 101.
4. Spurred by the antisemitic claims of the *Protocols*, seven thousand attacks by the public between 1918 and 1921 killed about 100,000 Russian Jews, primarily in Ukraine.

Slide 17

1. In 1919, the *Protocols* was published in Germany.
2. For Germans, here was proof they needed that the Jews had not only started World War I to weaken the German state, but had guaranteed that Germany would lose by supposedly **“fostering a defeatist attitude.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 103 n*.
3. Germans held meetings devoted entirely to studying the *Protocols* and the claimed reality of a secret Jewish conspiracy to take over the world.
4. **“Catholic and Lutheran clergy urged their parishioners to read the work to protect Germany from an insidious enemy.”** *Id.* at 104.
5. The *Protocols* was soon translated into all the major European languages and became second only to the Bible in popularity.

Slide 18

1. In the early twentieth century, Henry Ford became alarmed at the changes in society he saw being created by the large number of Jews coming into the United States.
2. In 1919, he told an interviewer: **“International financiers are behind all war. They are what is called the international Jew: German Jews, French Jews, English Jews, American Jews. I believe that in all those countries except our own the Jewish financier is supreme . . . here the Jew is a threat.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 168.

3. In 1919, Ford bought a small Michigan newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*, to disseminate his antisemitic views through his nationwide dealership network.
4. In 1920, the *Dearborn Independent* reprinted and distributed the *Protocols* as fact.

Slide 19

1. The newspaper ran 91 anti-Jewish articles under Ford's byline, one titled *Jewish Degradation of American Baseball* and another labeling jazz "Yiddish moron music."
2. The articles were combined into a four-volume set called *International Jew*, 500,000 copies of which were distributed throughout the United States and abroad.
3. Calling Jews "**the world's foremost problem,**" the *International Jew* accused Jews of "**undermining America through their control of the press, labor unions, and banks, and by promoting jazz, alcohol and communism**" and blamed the Jews "**for World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution.**" Perry, *Antisemitism* at 105.

Slide 20

1. In 1920 the Ku Klux Klan re-emerged, with the objective of preventing the increasing number of Jewish and Catholic immigrants from gaining political power.
2. The Ku Klux Klan "**incited hatred against Jews wherever it could, especially in New York City, emphasizing their would-be dominance, alien character, and unassimilability.**" Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 255.
3. For proof that Jews were conspiring to control the world and should be stopped, the KKK relied on the *Protocols* published and affirmed by Henry Ford, named by college students in a 1920 survey as the third greatest man who had ever lived, behind only Jesus and Napoleon.
4. At its peak in 1924, the Ku Klux Klan had about six million members nationwide.
5. Its largest membership per capita was in Indiana, where an estimated 30 percent of all white men were members.
6. By 1925, over half the members of the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor were members of the Klan.

Slide 21

1. In 1921, soon after Ford had begun promoting the *Protocols* as proof of a world-wide Jewish conspiracy, a *London Times* reporter discovered that *Protocols* was an elaborate fabrication, created by the Parisian office of the Russian secret police.
2. He demonstrated that a large portion of the narrative was plagiarized from an earlier work of satire directed at the ambitions of Napoleon.

3. Other parts were lifted from a nineteenth century fictional adventure story about Jewish elders secretly meeting in a Prague Jewish cemetery to plan for world domination.
4. Contemporary details were mixed in to give the stories the ring of truth, but the *Protocols*' accounts of a world-wide Jewish conspiracy were entirely fiction.
5. But even after learning that the *Protocols* was fabricated, Henry Ford said publicly **“that they fit in with what is going on.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 170.
6. He continued promoting the *Protocols* as true until faced with a libel suit in 1927, at which time he denied even knowing about the articles published under his name.

Slide 22

1. In 1965, a United States Senate report called the *Protocols* the **“fictional product of a warped mind”** and said that **“the peddlers of the *Protocols* are peddlers of un-American prejudice who spread hate and dissension among the American people.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 113.
2. But *Protocols* continues to appear as fact on many antisemitic Internet sites such as this one.

Slide 23

1. Even some well-educated people continue to refuse to believe that the *Protocols*' claims of a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world were fabricated.
2. As one author writes: **“When otherwise brilliant minds are so deceived and when some, even with irrefragable disproof, persist in believing, we are at grips with a collective psychosis, with a will to hate and destroy beyond the pale of human rationality.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 193.

Slide 24

1. Like the ritual murder allegations that came from the Christian west, the fabricated charge of a world-wide Jewish conspiracy found its way into Muslim-majority countries and is often used today as a basis for anti-Jewish activities.
2. For example, **“in 1994, two leading Iranian dailies published the *Protocols* in numerous installments.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 115.
3. **“In April 1998 *El Telegraph*, Australia’s leading Arabic newspaper, quoted the *Protocols* to substantiate the views that Jews seek world domination.”** *Id.* at 116.
4. **“Muslim scholars, either in the Middle East or living abroad, have not seen fit to inform their coreligionists that the *Protocols* is a lie and a libel.”** *Id.*

Slide 25

1. Despite all the efforts directed against them around the world, by the 1920s the Jewish people **“had entered the mainstream of the cultural, economic and political life of nations to a degree that is astonishing in light of the attendant conditions.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 203.
2. By that time, nearly 30 percent of all Nobel Prize winners had been Jewish, even though Jews represented less than one percent of the world’s population.
3. Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud had overturned long-standing assumptions about the nature of the universe and the drivers of human behavior.
4. Throughout Europe and in the United States, Jews were vastly overrepresented in law, medicine, finance, music and other occupations requiring a high degree of training.
5. In 1921, 20 percent of freshman at Harvard were Jewish, leading its president to propose quotas on Jewish admissions before Jewish enrollment reached 40 percent, as it was at Columbia.
6. By 1925, Jewish enrollment at Harvard was effectively capped at 15 percent, where it remained until the 1940s.

Slide 26

1. For the many Christians who saw the Jews as inherently inferior and cursed by God, these extraordinary achievements could only be explained by the conspiracy described in the *Protocols*, aided by Satan in his own quest for world domination.
2. In many versions of the *Protocols*, **“the principal speech to the learned Jewish elders is delivered by the Devil himself.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 99.
3. Proponents of the idea that Satan was behind the Jews’ success pointed to the *Gospel of John*, quoting Jesus as saying that Jews are children of the devil, and to *Revelation*, which describes the **“synagogue of Satan.”** *John* 8:42-44, *Revelation* 2:9, 3:9.
4. They also pointed to Martin Luther, who had advocated a number of actions to **“save our souls from the Jews, that is, from the devil and from eternal death.”** Luther, *The Jews and Their Lies*.

Slide 27

1. The idea that the Jews were being supported by Satan was promoted by Adolph Hitler, who helped found the National Socialist German Workers Party in 1919, dedicated to the **“rebirth of the German nation along totalitarian and racial lines.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 207.

2. In 1920, Hitler, whose never-identified grandfather may well have been Jewish, spoke of **“combatting ‘racial tuberculosis’ through removal of the ‘causal agent, the Jew.’”** Kershaw, *Hitler* at 244.
3. In *Mein Kampf*, which Hitler wrote in prison in 1925 after being convicted for an unsuccessful coup attempt in Munich, he wrote that **“the Devil, as the symbol of all evil, assumes the living appearance of the Jew.”**
4. In writing *Mein Kampf*, which provided the foundations for the Nazis’ actions against the Jews, **“Hitler plagiarized from [Henry] Ford, lifting his reasoning and some times the very words which appeared in the *Dearborn Independent*.”** Lee, *Henry Ford and the Jews* at 59.
5. Ford was the only American Hitler mentioned in *Mein Kampf* among his list of heroes, which also included anti-Jewish Richard Wagner and Martin Luther.
6. In 1931, Hitler, who had a life-size portrait of Ford on his office wall, told a reporter for the *Detroit News*: **“I regard Henry Ford as my inspiration.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 171.
7. One author writes: **“In one sense, Hitler began where Ford left off.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 256.
8. Another says: **“[O]ne of the cruel ironies of history [is] that the savage anti-Semitism which developed in Germany . . . should have been stimulated by an American industrialist.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 297 n.132.

Slide 28

1. In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler also parroted the racial claims that originated with Wagner and de Gobineau and were given their fullest expression by Houston Stewart Chamberlain: **“For a racially pure people, conscious of its blood, can never be enslaved by the Jew. It will only be the master of bastards in this world.”**
2. “Blood and Soil,” reflecting Aryan racial purity, became the Nazi’s motto.

Slide 29

1. In the German election of 1932, Hitler’s Nazi party won 230 seats and Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany.
2. Germany’s parliament gave Hitler the power to rule by decree and he set out immediately to put in place the anti-Jewish ideas spelled out in *Mein Kampf*.
3. A person’s identity was described by his ancestors, not by his religion.
4. Anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent, even if a practicing Christian, was labeled a “non-Aryan” and banned from a variety of occupations and positions.

5. Anyone with at least three Jewish grandparents, even if a practicing Christian, was labeled a “Jew” and required to wear a yellow badge, reminiscent of those imposed on Jews during the Middle Ages.

Slide 30

1. Stores operated by Jews were required to be marked with a “J” or “Jude” and Jews were not allowed to live where at least one Aryan wanted to live.
2. **“Before 1933 was over German Jews were a community of ‘despairing men, weeping women and terror-stricken children.’”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 213.
3. By the end of 1933, 50,000 Jews, including Albert Einstein, had left Germany.
4. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws outlawed marriage and sex between Jews and Aryans and imposed further economic restrictions on Jews, with the hope that more would leave Germany soon.
5. Many did, but by the end of 1938, **“[o]ver 300,000 Jews were still in the country, some still eking out a living.”** *Id.* at 214.
6. Hitler needed an excuse to increase the pressure and he soon found one.

Slide 31

1. At the end of October 1938, **“the Nazi government rounded up all Polish Jews in its confines in a single raid and literally dumped 12,000 of them on the Polish border.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 215.
2. On November 7, the 17-year old son of one of the affected families, who was living in Paris at the time, reacted by killing a low level Nazi official in Paris.
3. Hitler’s government immediately blamed the killing on the international Jewish conspiracy and took violent revenge against Germany’s Jews in what became known as *Kristallnacht*, the night of glass.
4. Beginning at 1:20 A.M. on November 10, 1938, Nazi storm troopers, supported by local mobs, attacked Jewish institutions without interference from the police.
5. By the time the attacks were over in the evening, 100 Jews had been killed, 600 synagogues had been burned, 7500 Jewish shops had been looted and damaged and 35,000 Jews had been arrested, many of them sent to concentration camps.
6. Much of the international community, as well as many in Germany, protested the attacks but Hitler vowed to continue what he claimed had become a war **“against the forces of international Jewry which, in league with the Red menace, sought to dominate the world.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 217.

7. For Hitler, the Jews and the Communists were now controlling both capital and labor and both had to be stopped.
8. In April 1939, five months after *Kristallnacht*, Henry Ford sent Hitler 50,000 marks for his 50th birthday.

Slide 32

1. **“The *Kristallnacht* marked a new phase in Nazi antisemitism—and a point of no return.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 216.
2. Wherever the Nazis advanced in Europe, they systematically persecuted the Jews, forcing them into concentration camps such as Terazin near Prague, where thousands of Jews died from **“starvation, disease, overwork and varied abuses.”** *Id.* at 217.

Slide 33

1. At some point in late 1940 or early 1941, the Nazi policy of abusing Jews to the point of death evolved into the policy known as the “Final Solution,” the complete elimination of Jews living within the territories controlled by Nazi Germany.
2. The killing was initially accomplished by Nazi soldiers, shooting Jews in the back in trenches that became their mass graves.
3. **“Between September and December of 1941, close to 150,000 Jews were murdered, 34,000 of them on Yom Kippur at Babi Yar, near Kiev in the Ukraine.”** Trepp, *A History of the Jewish Experience* at 276.
4. In his report of December 1, 1941, a German SS officer described the killings as a **“shooter’s paradise.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 196.

Slide 34

1. Because Germany now controlled Poland and its three million Jews, mass shootings proved inadequate to accomplish the final solution in an acceptable time frame.
2. So German engineers designed enormous death factories, all of them in Poland.
3. **“Gas chambers and crematoria were built at Auschwitz, Maidanek, Belzec, Chelmo, Sobibor and Treblinka.”** Trepp, *A History of the Jewish Experience* at 277.
4. Jews, including children, were herded into gas chambers, where most died in less than fifteen minutes.
5. The commandant of Auschwitz said under oath before his execution that **“[w]e knew people [in the gas chamber] were dead because their screaming stopped.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 200.
6. The crematorium at Auschwitz had a capacity of 10,000 bodies a day.

7. Two million Jews died at Auschwitz alone, many before even reaching the gas chambers because of starvation and inhumane treatment.

Slide 35

1. On October 4, 1943, Heinrich Himmler gave a report to SS generals in Poland about the Nazi efforts: **“This is a page of glory in our history which has never been written and is never to be written. . . . We have taken from [the Jews] what wealth they had . . . We had the moral right, we had the duty to our people, to destroy this people which wanted to destroy us. . . . [W]e have exterminated a bacterium.”** <https://phdn.org/archives/www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/genocide/SS2.htm>
2. So important was the extermination of the Jews that even **“[w]hen there was a shortage of trains for moving German troops into battle with the Allied Forces, railroad cars were pressed into service to transport Jews to the killing centers.”** Williamson, *Has God Rejected His People?* at 125.

Slide 36

1. By the time the Allies liberated the Jews in the death camps, about six million Jews had been killed by the Nazis, along with about five million Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses and others deemed unfit to continue living.
2. Up to sixty percent of all the Jews in Europe had been eliminated, including 92 percent of the three million Jews in Poland.

Slide 37

1. The Holocaust generated new support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, then a British protectorate.
2. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations approved a plan to establish an independent state of Israel in part of Palestine, giving the remainder to the Palestinians.
3. The Palestinians and their Arab supporters rejected the plan of partition.
4. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared that it was an independent state in the land identified for it in the United Nations plan.
5. Since 1966, twelve Israelis have been awarded Nobel prizes.

Slide 38

1. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, antisemitism around the world was in decline – after all, the Nazis and their rabidly anti-Jewish attitudes and actions had been soundly defeated and the leaders put on trial and executed for war crimes.
2. Few people anywhere wanted to be aligned with the Nazi’s defeat.

3. But by the 1980s, any hope that antisemitism had disappeared was gone.
4. As one author wrote in 1985: **“The antisemitic devil still roams the world. There is hardly a country where a Jewish population of any size exists that does not exhibit some form of antisemitism.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 264.

Slide 39

1. In 1978, the National Socialist Party of America, an avowed Neo-Nazi group, sought and obtained the legal right to march in Skokie, Illinois, one sixth of whose residents were Holocaust survivors.
2. The proposed march never took place as planned, but the event demonstrated that no longer were Americans unwilling to express their anti-Jewish feelings in public.

Slide 40

1. Perhaps the most pernicious claim of antisemites since World War II is the persistent argument that, despite all the evidence, the Holocaust itself is a hoax and **“still another evil ploy by Jews in their drive for world power.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 178.
2. Holocaust deniers reject as forgeries the trove of documents proving the intent of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews.
3. They discredit as lies the testimony of eye witnesses, including those about to be executed for killing Jews in the gas chambers.

Slide 41

1. Some Holocaust deniers seek to **“delegitimize Israel, which the international community, shocked and shamed by the Nazi horrors, had helped to create.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 178.
2. For example, in 1979, Dr. Robert Faurisson, a well-known French Holocaust denier, wrote: **“The alleged Hitlerian gas chambers and the so-called genocide of the Jews form a single historical lie whose principal beneficiaries are the State of Israel and International Zionism and whose principal victims are the German people . . . and the Palestinian people in its entirety.”** *Id.* at 180.
3. As a result, Holocaust denial is particularly prevalent in the Middle East, where it is often supported by official government policy.

Slide 42

1. The Internet is filled with anti-Jewish messages.
2. This one repeats the ancient claim that Jews are responsible for all the world’s ills.

Slide 43

1. Overt antisemitism exists today even in Germany, which has strict laws against it.
2. The stones of this Holocaust memorial in Berlin have been marred repeatedly with swastikas and other antisemitic markings.

Slide 44

1. Hostile anti-Jewish rhetoric in the United States has come from some prominent African Americans despite the fact that **“Jewish participation in the cause of black civil rights started earlier and was significantly greater than that of any other definable white group.”** Perry, *Antisemitism* at 215.
2. In 1979, Jesse Jackson said that **“the real resistance to black progress has not come from the Ku Klux Klan but from our former allies in the American Jewish community.”** *Id.* at 221.
3. During the 1984 presidential campaign, Jackson referred to New York as **“Hymietown”** and a section of Chicago as **“where Hymie gets you if you can’t negotiate him down.”** *Id.*

Slide 45

1. In a 1998 survey, 34 percent of black Americans held views described as “most anti-Semitic” compared to only nine percent for white Americans.
2. The reasons many black Americans hold and express anti-Jewish views is complex, but one explanation is Jewish opposition to some forms of affirmative action, which many African Americans see as essential to their advancement.
3. Another disagreement is over the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, which some African American leaders have characterized as a matter of racial discrimination despite the fact that Jews and Palestinians are closely related genetically.
4. Recent genetic studies have shown that about 75 of both Jews and Palestinian Muslims share a common ancestor.

Slide 46

1. The most well-known promoter of this and other anti-Jewish ideas is Lewis Farrakhan, the controversial leader of the Nation of Islam.
2. Among many anti-Jewish remarks made by Farrakhan are ones he uttered in a speech in Chicago, in which he repeated in just a few words many of the ancient charges against Jews: **“You are wicked deceivers of the American people. You have sucked their blood. You are not real Jews, those of you that are not real Jews. You are the**

synagogue of Satan, and you have wrapped your tentacles around the U.S. government, and you are deceiving and sending this nation to hell.”

3. Farrakhan recently claimed that Jews are promoting homosexuality among black men through a special type of marijuana.

Slide 47

1. Jesse Jackson and others have condemned the anti-Jewish statements of Farrakhan, but some young African American leaders, including Women’s March co-president Tamika Mallory, have refused to distance themselves from Farrakhan.
2. They argue that the Nation of Islam is attacking discrimination against African Americans and the anti-Jewish words of Farrakhan do not detract from those efforts.
3. Some believe African American solidarity requires that they withhold criticism.

Slide 48

1. More and more white Americans have also recently been willing to publicly support antisemitic views, including those originating in Nazi Germany.
2. At the August 12, 2017, rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, marchers chanted “Jews will not replace us” and “Blood and Soil,” the Nazi slogan during the Holocaust.

Slide 49

1. The most deadly attack on Jews in the United States took place on October 27, the day before I started this series.
2. A white man shouting “all Jews must die” killed 11 and injured seven during a Shabbat service at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Slide 50

1. Closer to home, the recent attack on the synagogue in Carmel was allegedly carried out by a white 20-year-old from Cloverdale, Indiana.
2. He said he attacked the synagogue because it is “**full of ethnic Jews.**” *Current in Carmel* (Aug. 21, 2018).

Slide 51

1. This is an invitation to a Ku Klux Klan “Kookout” in Madison, Indiana, on September 1, 2018.
2. The event drew about 20 Klansmen and 200 protestors.

Slide 52

1. I could provide many more examples of the resurgence of anti-Jewish words and actions in the United States and around the world, but I think most of you are already aware of them.
2. So I want to end this series with words from the authors of two of the books that I have been relying upon throughout this series.
3. In 1985, Father Edward Flannery, a Roman Catholic priest, wrote: **“The sin of antisemitism contains many sins, but in the end it is a denial of Christian faith, a failure of Christian hope, and a malady of Christian love.”** Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* at 295.
4. Concluding his 1982 book on antisemitism, Clark Williamson, Professor Emeritus at Christian Theological Seminary, wrote: **“Being Christian means taking responsibility for the present and the impact and efficacy the present will have on the future. We take on the present in hope—not to rewrite the past, but to shape the future differently.”** Williamson, *Has God Rejected His People?* at 171.
5. Amen.

Resources:

Flannery, Edward, *The Anguish of the Jews* (Paulist Press 2004)

Kershaw, Ian, *Hitler: 1889-1936 Hubris* (W. W. Norton 1998)

Lazare, Bernard, *Antisemitism: Its History and Causes* (University of Nebraska Press 1995)

Lee, Albert, *Henry Ford and the Jews* (Stein & Day 1980)

Nirenberg, David, *Anti-Judaism* (W. W. Norton 2013)

Perry, Marvin, *Antisemitism: Myth and Hate from Antiquity to the Present* (Palgrave Macmillan 2002)

Trepp, Leo, *A History of the Jewish Experience* (Behrman House 2001)

Williamson, Clark, *Has God Rejected His People?* (Abingdon 1982)