



Anti-Semitism

On July 27, 2010, The Anti-Defamation League published its annual report introducing the [2009 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents](#). The data presented in that report indicate that the number of anti-Semitic incidents remained at about the same level as that reported in 2008. The number of incidents of traditional manifestations of anti-Semitism - assaults, vandalism, and harassment - recorded by the ADL in 2009, was 1,211 as compared to 1,352 in 2008. However, although the 2009 Report does not deal with incidents of anti-Semitism on the internet, this phenomenon is followed by the ADL and there was a dramatic increase in these incidents, which is a continuation of an on-going trend in recent years.

A careful examination of the numbers that were presented in the report and the explanations offered by the researchers with respect to changes in the methodology of the study as compared to previous years, as well as familiarity with other reports for 2009 of additional organizations with expertise in dealing with manifestations of anti-Semitism, raise the question whether the number of anti-Semitic incidents has indeed declined as the dry data suggest.

The table below shows the numbers of anti-Semitic incidents in 2009 according to type and state, with the addition of the total figures for each state in 2008 in the column on the right for purposes of comparison:

State	Vandalism	Harassment	Assault	2009 Total Incidents	2008 Total Incidents
Alabama	1	1	0	2	9
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	6	10	0	16	24
Arkansas	0	1	0	1	7
California	114	152	9	275	226
Colorado	3	11	0	14	15
Connecticut	7	17	0	24	38
Delaware	0	2	0	2	0
Florida	24	63	3	90	122
Georgia	7	11	0	18	20
Hawaii	0	1	0	1	0
Idaho	2	1	0	3	2
Illinois	13	34	0	47	34
Indiana	1	3	0	4	3
Iowa	0	7	0	7	1
Kansas	0	32	0	32	0
Kentucky	0	1	0	1	7

Louisiana	0	3	0	3	3
Maine	1	0	0	1	2
Maryland	5	13	0	18	27
Massachusetts	16	38	1	55	52
Michigan	2	3	0	5	15
Minnesota	0	5	0	5	2
Mississippi	1	1	1	3	8
Missouri	1	24	0	25	14
Montana	0	1	0	1	3
Nebraska	4	12	1	17	6
Nevada	1	0	0	1	2
New Hampshire	0	3	0	3	8
New Jersey	53	77	2	132	238
New Mexico	0	3	0	3	3
New York	120	79	10	209	207
North Carolina	1	1	0	2	4
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	8
Ohio	0	11	0	11	11
Oklahoma	0	9	0	9	2
Oregon	1	1	1	3	17
Pennsylvania	13	52	0	65	97
Rhode Island	0	5	0	5	2
South Carolina	1	2	0	3	4
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	2	8	0	10	11
Texas	9	19	0	28	30
Utah	0	3	0	3	2
Vermont	0	3	0	3	5
Virginia	6	6	0	12	12
Washington	4	11	0	15	26
Washington DC	1	18	1	20	12
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	6
Wisconsin	2	2	0	4	5
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0
Total	422	760	29	1211	1352

The researchers emphasize that despite the fact that the ADL receives indications and examples of online anti-Semitism, the audit doesn't include thousands of anti-semitic events that occurred in cyberspace (excluding e-mails directed against a specific person on a background of of anti-Semitism). The reason behind this omission is that anti-Semitism in cyberspace is virtually impossible to quantify. However, a notable part of the audit is dedicated to online incidents of anti-Semitism: the use of social networking sites (Facebook in particular), anti-Semitism in "Truther" groups and anti-Semitism on mainstream news sites.

The media coverage of this research deals mostly with the findings- 1,211 anti-Semitic incidents in 2009 around the USA, which constitutes a slight decrease compare to 2008. Jordana Horn from the Jerusalem Post ([Anti-Semitic incidents in US down by 10 percent in 2009](#)) and Natasha Mozgovaya from Haaretz ([More than](#)

[1,000 anti-Semitic attacks recorded across U.S. in 2009](#)) note that in the ADL used new reporting methods and methodologies in the audit for 2009, which probably influenced the findings, They also indicate in these two articles the rise in anti-Semitic incidents occurring in cyberspace. More interesting is the reaction of local newspapers to the ADL audit. Mitchell Landsberg, from the Los Angeles Times ([Report finds increase in anti-Semitic incidents in California](#)) wrote about the sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents in California for the second year. This increase has been attributed to actions carried out by young people and, as Amanda Susskind, regional director for the ADL said, , "the trend was troubling and may reflect the pervasiveness of hate speech on the Internet." . Other explanations, such as the arrest and conviction of the Jewish financier, Bernard Madoff, and the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip are offered to explain the phenomenon. Landsberg compared the data with data from the report on hate crime issued by California Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown. Brown's survey showed that crimes motivated by anti-Semitism or by hatred against other religious and ethnic groups declined in 2009. However, Landsberg expressed some doubt regarding the findings, quoting Susskind that in "Brown's report, 76% of the hate crimes motivated by religious bias were against Jews. Muslim were next, at 6%." As opposed to Landsberg, Jaweed Kaleem from The Miami Herald, presents encouraging data regarding a 26% decline in anti-Semitic incidents in Florida during 2009 ([Reports of anti-Semitic incidents in Florida drop again](#)). Kaleem notes that during 2009, the ADL counted 90 incidents - 32 fewer than in 2008. He indicates that Florida accounted for 7 percent of the 1,211 anti-Semitic incidents reported nationwide. Andrew Rosenkranz, the ADL Florida Regional Director, is encouraged by this trend, but at the same time, believes that "it shows we have more work to do." Kaleem expresses the concern expressed by journalists with other newspapers as well, according to which the double-digit decrease in Florida may be partially due to changes in how the organization counts incidents. For the sake of comparison, the state audit on anti-Semitic incidents in 2008 showed only a two percent decrease from 2007. The article in The Miami Herald ends with a call to readers to report any anti-Semitic incidents to the local ADL office.

Anti-Semitism Worldwide 2009- General Analysis ([Link](#))

In April 2009, the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism, at Tel Aviv University, published an evaluation of data regarding anti-Semitism worldwide. The researchers collected and analyzed 1,129 violent incidents, which represent an increase of over 100% as compared to the 2008 figure of 559. In addition, many more hundreds of threats with The authors of the report note that it seems that the number of incidents is greater than that presented in the report because many cases were not included in the report for reasons of inadequate documentation and the lack of ability to unequivocally determine that the violent manifestations directed against Jews and their property were caused by anti-Semitic motives¹

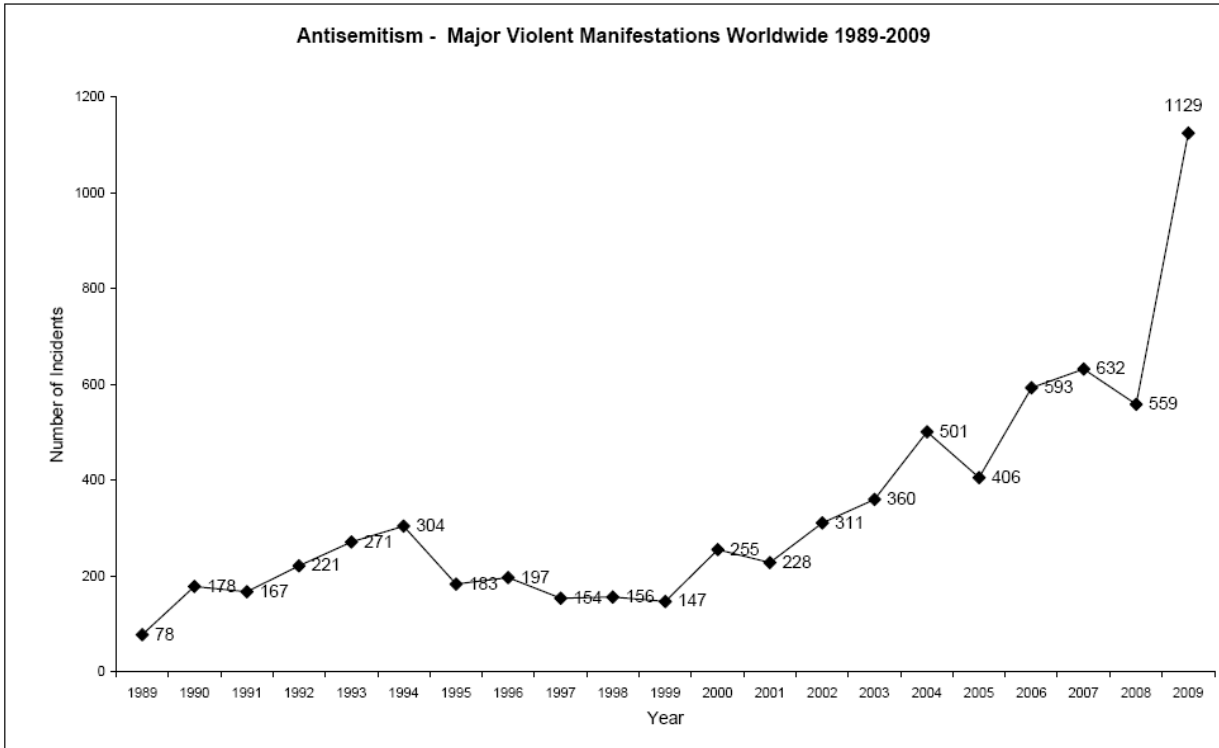
The highest rise of violent incidents was registered in 2009 in the UK - 374 compared to 112 in 2008; other countries in which a sharp increase was recorded are:

France, with 195 violent events during 2009 compared to 50 in 2008, Canada, with 138 violent events during 2009 compared to 13 in 2008, and the US -116 compared to 98 in 2008.

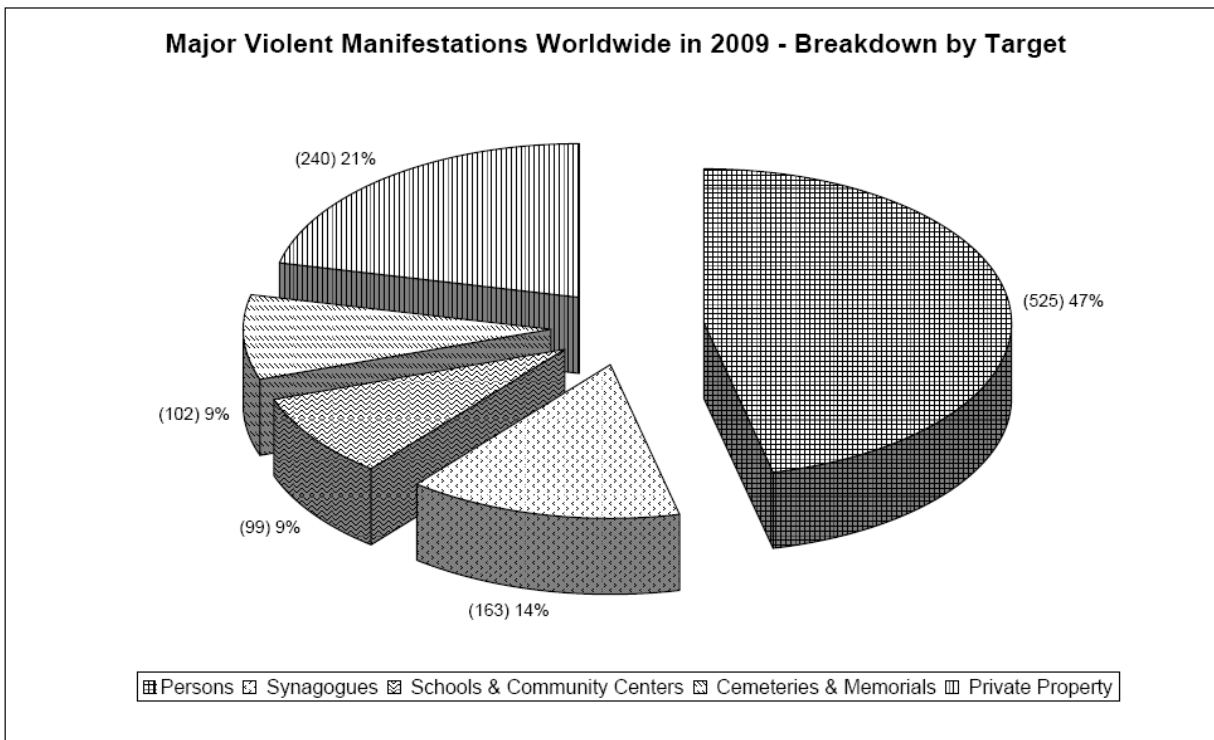
According to the researchers, the incursion into the Gaza Strip, Operation Cast Lead (27/12/2008-18/01/2009), triggered a wave of anti-Semitic violence all over the world. The figure for January 2009 was the highest total ever recorded for a single month. In the UK, 359 acts were reported during January alone (from a total number of 924 anti-Semitic manifestations which were recorded by the Community Security Trust of British Jews); In France, about 40% of all incidents in 2009 (832 recorded by the Jewish community Protection Service, while 974 incidents recorded by the Interior Ministry) occurred in January; In Norway, 6 violent incidents were record in 2009 compared to only 1 in all of 2008 and in Austria, the Forum against Anti-Semitism recorded 125 events between January and June 2009, compared to a total of 46 in 2008 most of which occurred during January,

¹ To compare, the ADL 2010 audit indicate 1,211 antisemitic incidents only in the US, while in this report they analyze 1,129 worldwide/

In a comparative examination of the anti-Semitic incidents around the world between 1989-2009, the increase in the number of incidents is obvious:



Additional interesting data is the differentiation by targets:



Attitudes Toward Jews in Seven European Countries ([Link](#))

In February 2009, The Anti-Defamation League published a paper dealing with the attitudes toward Jews in seven European countries. The research is based on a total of 3,500 telephone interviews (500 in each of the countries) of members of the general public, between December 1, 2008 and January 13, 2009. Respondents were asked whether or not they thought the following four statements were "probably true" or "probably false":

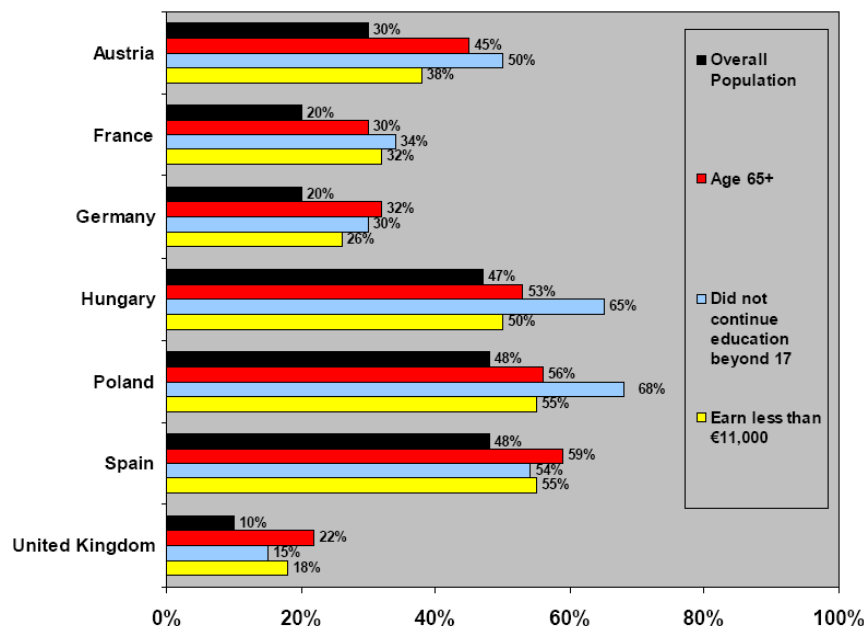
- Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country;
- Jews have too much power in the business world;
- Jews have too much power in International financial markets;
- Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the holocaust.

Respondents were also asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that "Jews are responsible for the death of Christ," and if their opinion of Jews was influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel and whether they believed the violence directed against European Jews was a result of anti-Jewish feeling or anti-Israel sentiment.

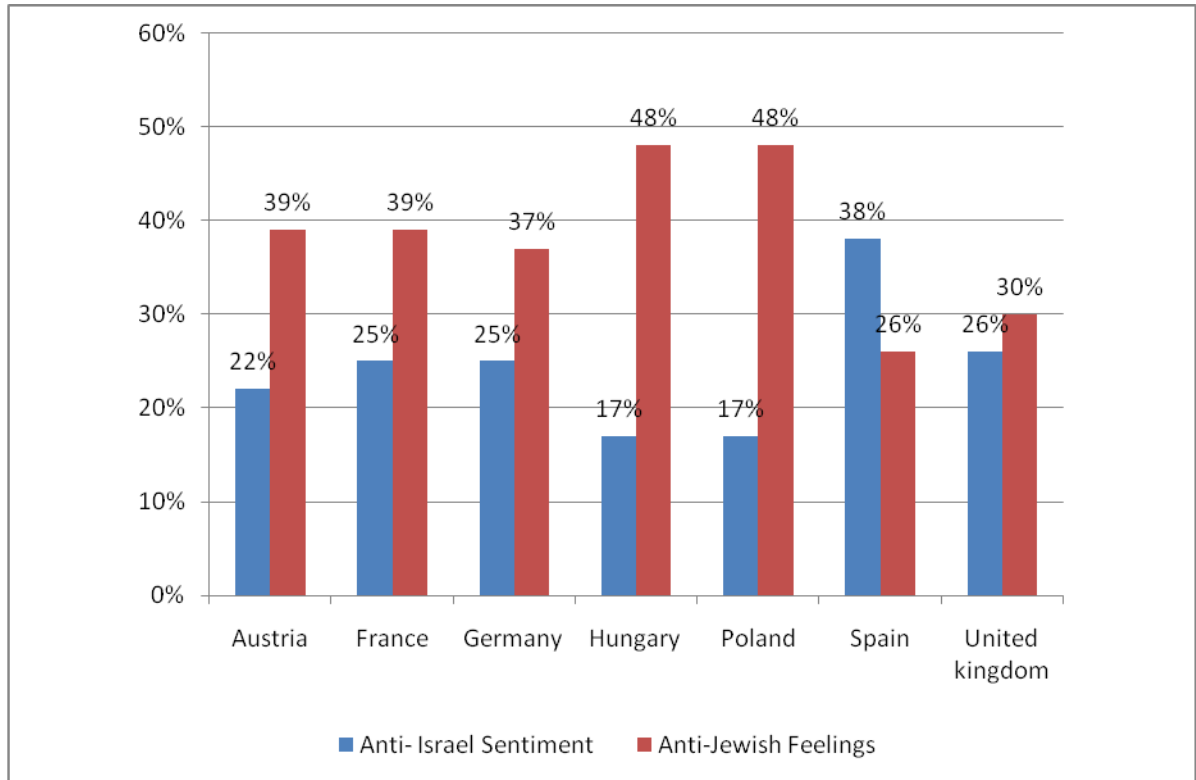
The first five questions were designed mainly to find stereotyping by the respondents. The responses to these questions were classified according to the by age, educational level and income level of the respondents, characteristics that would be likely to influence the respondents' answers.

The following table illustrates this trend:

Percentage responding "probably true" to at least three of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes tested



Interesting finding that arose from the research deals with the question whether anti-Semitic incidents are influenced by action taken by the State of Israel. At least for six of the seven countries covered by the study the finding is inconsistent with the data gathered by the Stephen Roth Institute and the US State Department data,? With the exception of the UK, most of the respondents believe that anti-Semitic manifestations are the result of anti-Jewish feeling and not anti-Israel sentiment:

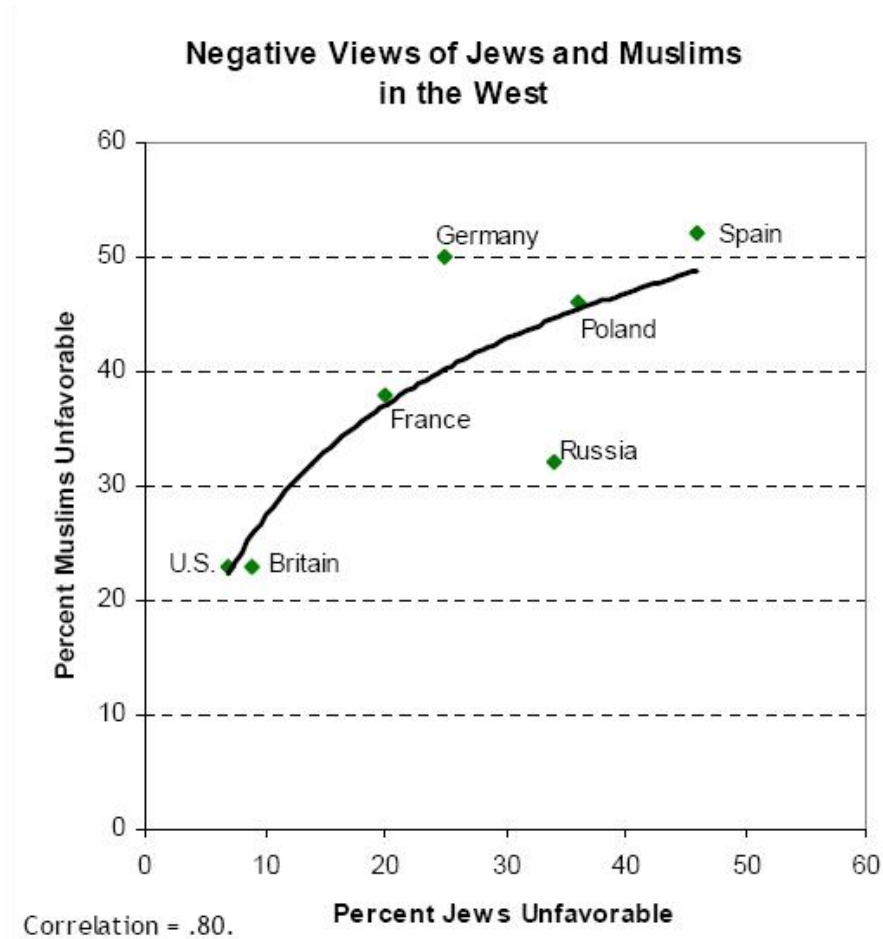


Unfavorable Views of Jews and Muslims on the Increase in Europe ([Link](#))

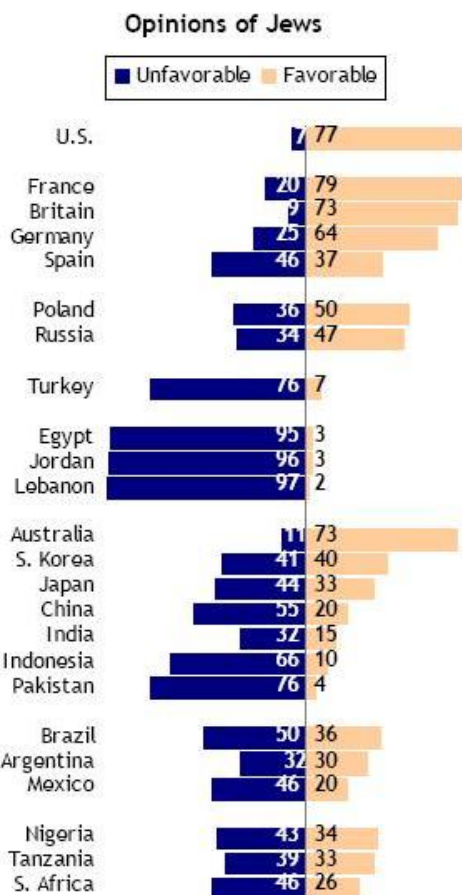
On September 17, 2008, The Pew research center published a report dealing with the unfavorable views of Jews and Muslims on the increase in Europe., This report is a part of a broader global attitudes project, based on a series of worldwide public opinion surveys encompassing a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about important issues of the day. The report was based on the answer of 24,717 respondents from 24 different countries.

Among the findings:

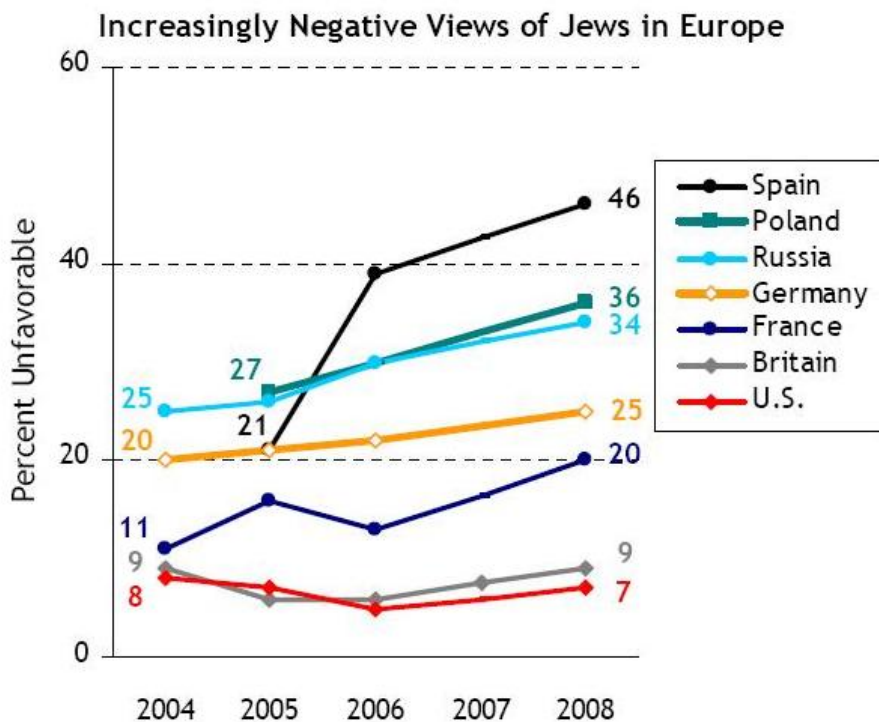
1. There is a strong relationship (High correlation- 0.8) between anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim sentiments in the West



2. A worldwide comparison of opinions regarding Jews highlights the fact that negative views are most common in the three predominantly Arab nations included in the survey: Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. Negative attitudes also are common in the other predominantly Muslim countries, such as Turkey and Pakistan:



3. In the last few years there was an increase in negative views regarding Jews in Europe. These figures reinforce the finding from the Stephen Roth Institute report regarding the increase in the anti-Semitic incidents during the last few years:

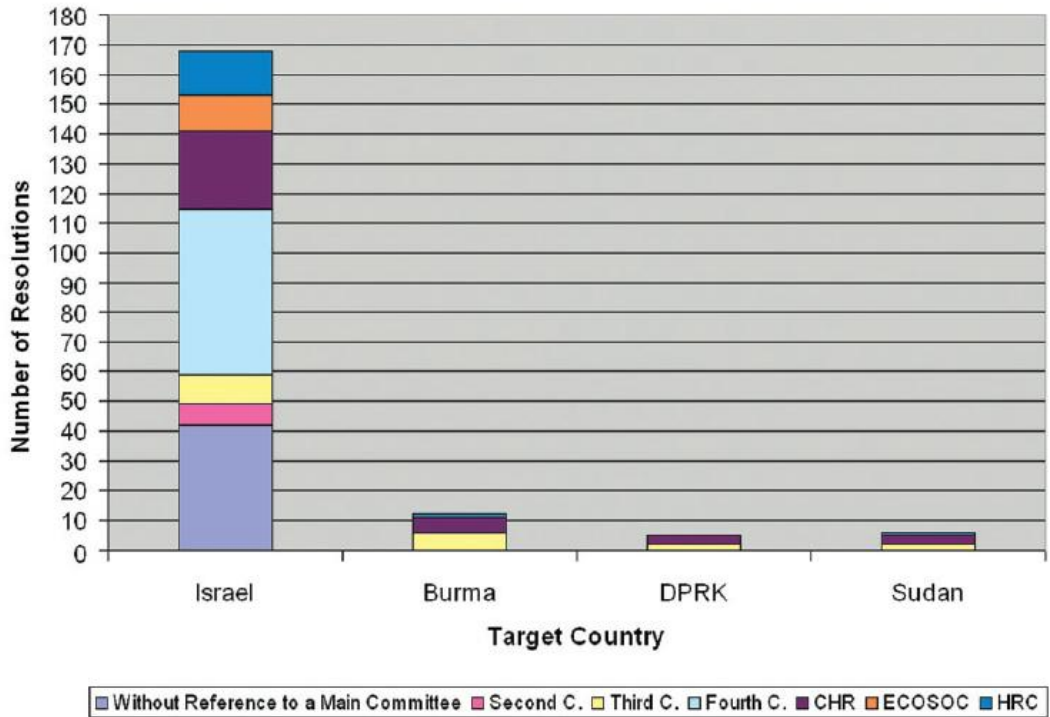


Contemporary Global Anti- Semitism: A Report Provided to the United States Congress ([Link](#))

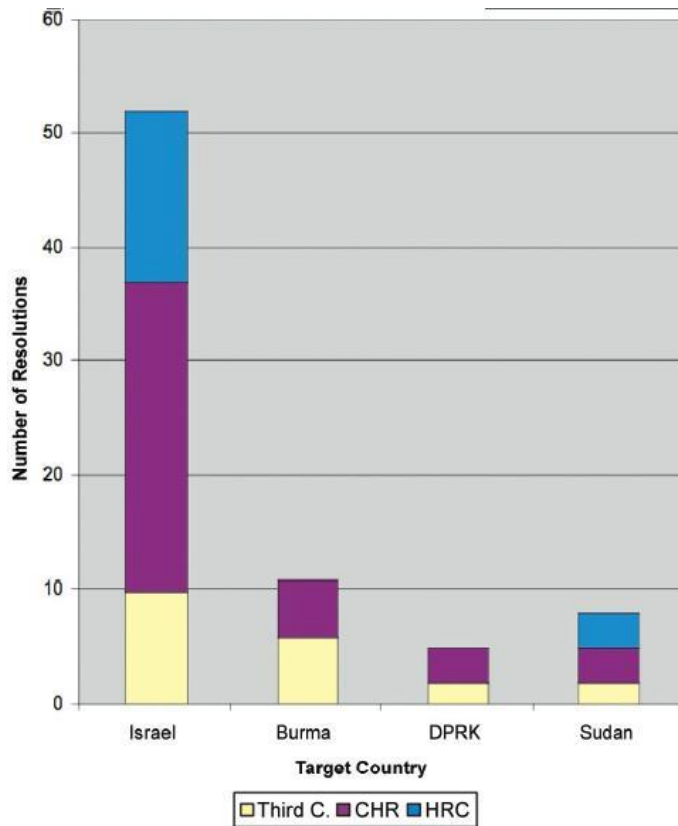
The annual report of the U.S. State Department on anti-Semitism issued in 2008 does not purport to include all of the manifestations of anti-Semitism recorded throughout the world, but rather to present examples that can shed light on the phenomenon and its trends. The report points to an increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the last decade. The report specifies the various forms of anti-Semitic incidents and the various means used by those carrying out anti-Semitic acts and suggests ways to deal with the phenomenon.

The researchers refer to the contemporary forms of anti-Semitism and the adaptation of anti-Semitic acts to the changing environment. They point out the distinguishing features of the new anti-Semitism –criticism of Zionism or Israeli policy that has the effect of promoting prejudice against Jews. Regarding this new form of anti-Semitism, they add that Israel's policies and practices must be subject to responsible criticism and scrutiny to the same degree as those of other countries. However, those who criticize Israel should consider the effect their actions may have in promoting hatred of Jews. An entire section of the report is dedicated to the United Nations, which applied double standards by requiring of Israel a standard of behavior not expected or demanded of other nations. On the one hand, it considers Israel equal to all other countries and adopts resolutions condemning traditional forms of anti-Semitism, including holocaust denial (resolution A/61/255, January 2007). On the other hand, between 2001-2006 UNGA's plenary and main committees, adopted over 120 human rights related resolutions focused on Israel. During that same period, only ten resolutions were adopted by these same bodies regarding the situations in North Korea, Burma and Sudan.

Resolutions with Negative Country-Specific References (2001-2007)

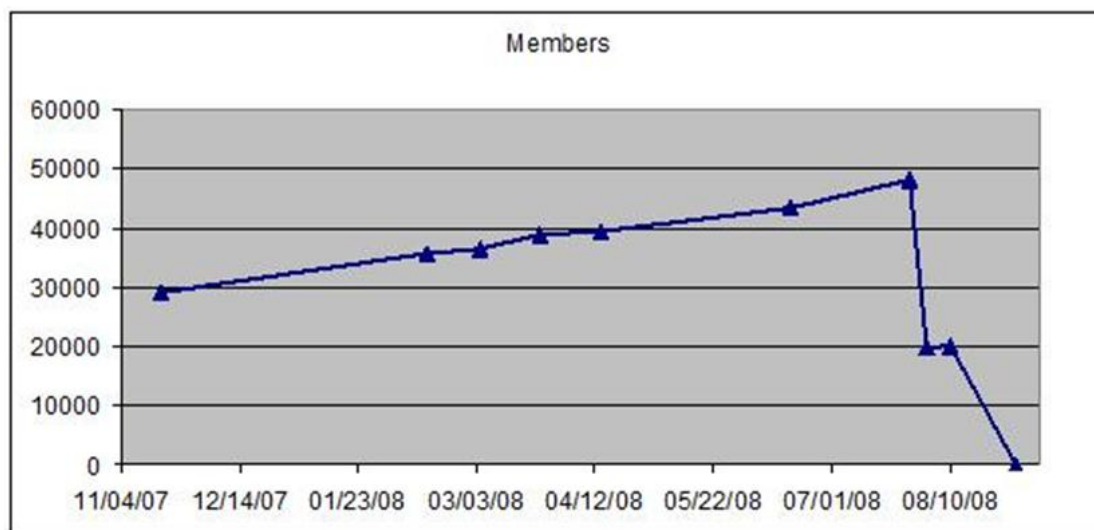


Resolutions Criticizing Countries' Human Rights Records (2001-2007)



Online anti-Semitism

As indicated in the 2009 audit of anti-Semitic incidents reported by the ADL ([Link](#)), anti-Semitism in cyberspace is virtually impossible to quantify, both because of the high dynamic of the medium, and because the information on the net is infinite, and it is almost impossible to reach it all. Despite these constraints, the various studies which refer to online anti-Semitism, as well as the general report on anti-Semitism (i.e. the 2009 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents of the ADL and the Stephen Roth Institute study of Anti-Semitism Worldwide 2009), agree that in the last few years there was a worrying increase in the number of anti-Semitic events in cyberspace. In a release of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization located in LA, from the beginning of 2010, they identified some 10,000 problematic hate and terrorist websites, on-line hate games and other internet postings ([link](#)). Andre Obler, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Political Science at Bar-Ilan University and Legacy Heritage Fellow at NGO Monitor in Jerusalem, who has written some articles on anti-Semitism 2.0, pointing to some groups which distribute anti-Semitic messages through Facebook groups ([The Rise and Fall of a Facebook hate Group](#) ; [Facebook, Holocaust Denial, and Anti-Semitism](#) 2.0)



The active project of creating a virtual Palestine superimposed on Israel, and the anti-Semitic videos on YouTube ([Online Antisemitism 2.0 "social Antisemitism" on the "Social Web"](#)). Report by the ADL add to this distinguished list website like MySpace and mainstream news sites as the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times* which allowed an upload of anti-Semitic comments to their articles (2009 Audit of anti-Semitic Incidents). Few organizations are targeting and combating the online anti-Semitism, among them, the ADL, which in 2001 published a press release applauding e-bay for expanding guidelines to prohibit the sale of items that glorify hate ([link](#)), the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which cooperates with Facebook staff to remove a number of groups with anti-Semitic messages, as they indicated in a May 12, 2009, statement: "Many of the groups or pages that were shown to us by the Simon Wiesenthal Center earlier this year as part of their study had already been removed under Facebook's rules. We are committed to continuing this practice, and to working with those who fight hate like the Simon Wiesenthal Center."² And the JIDF (Jewish Internet Defense Force) that was established in order to combat the online anti-Semitism, and recognized after his communicated fight against the Facebook group " "Israel" is not a country! ... Delist it from Facebook as a country!", a group that been used as a recruitment ground against Israel ([The Rise and Fall of a Facebook Hate Group](#)). During their fight, the JIDF members manage to reduce the group's size and to expel 59% of the group's membership. However, as expected, new groups, some of them with the same title, rose again. This battle illustrates the difficulties, and at the same time, the importance, of the battle on online anti-Semitism.

Additional Data and Research Information:

1. At the end of 2009, the executive Council of Australian Jewry published a final report on anti-Semitism for the time period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 ([link](#)). The report points out important developments in the manifestation of anti-Semitism and the struggle against it. The most significant developments over the last 20 years, according to the researchers, have been the crossing of a number of "red lines" in anti-Jewish rhetoric. The database for this study was gathered since 1989 and included over 960 reports of anti-Jewish violence, vandalism, harassment and intimidation.

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<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=lsKWLbPJLnF&b=4441467&ct=6994349&printmode=1> <July 14, 2010>

The Jewish People Policy Institute
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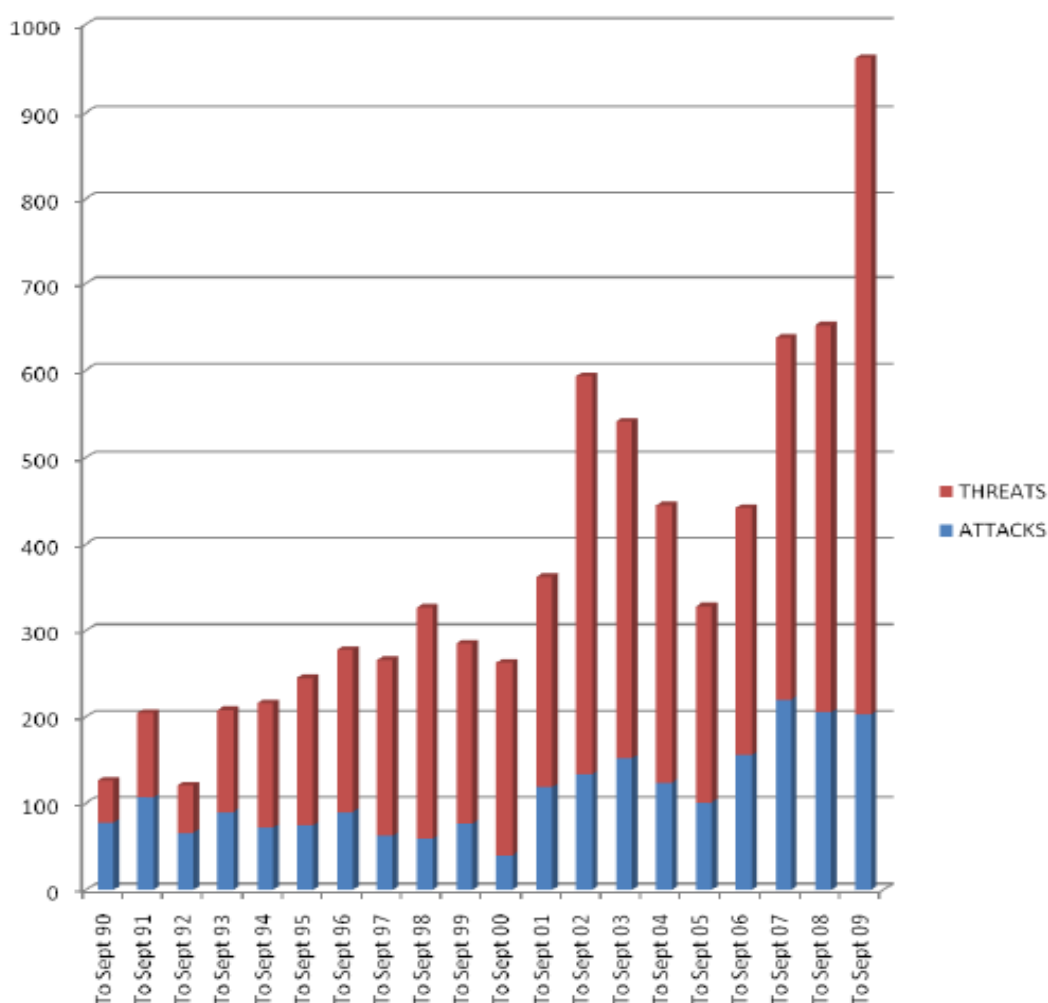
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According to these data, in 2009 the number of anti-Jewish incidents reached a record high, nearly three times the average of the previous 19 years:



- On April 23, 1990, the U.S. Congress passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which required the Attorney General to collect data “about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.” The Attorney General delegated the responsibilities of developing the procedures for implementing, collecting, and managing hate crime data to the Director of the FBI. In 2008, 13,690 law enforcement agencies submitted hate crime data to the UCR program. Of these agencies, 2,145 reported 7,783 hate crime incidents involving 9,168 offenses. The organization provides data broken down, inter alia, according to the motivation for the crime. ([link](#)):

During 2008, there were 1,606 hate crime offenses motivated by religious bias. A breakdown of these offenses shows:

Bias Motivation	Total Offenses	%	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Multiple races, group	Unknown races	Unknown offender
Anti-Jewish	1,055	65.7	176	20	1	4	14	80	760
Anti- Other Religion	212	13.2	51	3	1	1	5	24	127
Anti- Islamic	123	7.7	53	21	0	0	1	10	38
Anti-Catholic	75	4.7	14	1	0	0	0	9	51
Anti- Multiple Religious, Group	67	4.2	13	5	0	0	0	6	43
Anti- Protestant	60	3.7	11	2	0	1	1	11	34
Anti- Atheism/Ag nosticism	14	0.9	0	1	0	1	0	0	12
Total	1,606	100	318	53	2	7	21	140	1,065

3. In 2004, The Jewish People Policy Institute published a strategic paper by Prof. Yehezkel Dror, entitled "Confronting Anti-Semitism: a Strategic Perspective" ([link](#)). The paper presents the impact of five "ruptures in history" on past and present trends (the Holocaust; establishment of the State of Israel; success of the Jewish community in the USA; the radicalization of Islam with some elements of a "clash of civilization"; and globalization). The paper also reviews some relevant trends. The next step is to outline strategies to counter anti-Semitism, including construction of a new theory of anti-Semitism, which both differentiates between and integrates deep historic core causes and new formative factors, allocation of resources to counter-anti-Semitic acts and efforts to preempt and prevent the rise of anti-Semitism in civilizations and countries in Asia that are free from biases. The document concludes with recommendations for operative actions with respect to the strategies proposed.

4. In November 2001 The Jewish People Policy Institute published a paper by Prof. Irwin Cotler, entitled "New Anti-Jewishness" ([link](#)). This paper present indices and identification of the new anti-Jewishness, among them: Existential or Genocidal anti-Semitism, Political anti-Semitism, ideological anti-Semitism, Cultural anti-Semitism and more. This report raises the point that was later raised in the report of the U.S. State Department - the double standard regarding Israel – the call to Israel to respect human rights when Israel's human rights are not respected: "the problem is not that Israel as the 'Jew among nations' seeks to be above the law, but that it has been systematically denied equality before the law; not that Israel must respect human-rights-which it should- but that the human rights of Israel have not been respected; not that human rights standards should be applied to Israel- which they must- but that these standards have not been applied equally to anyone else".