

'Antisemitism is not the Jews' problem. It's Europe's'

Antisemitism 'mainstreamed' in Western European politics, says Israeli study

Researchers see convergence of far-left and far-right, crack in consensus against hatred of Jews; warn that Israel should not take leading role in fight against world antisemitism

By Lazar Berman / June 15, 2021

Fringe ideas and political parties are moving into the mainstream in Western Europe, bringing with them antisemitic views, according to an Israeli study to be released Tuesday that found a worrying convergence of far-right and far-left hate.

“We are seeing the penetration of the extremes into the political mainstream,” said **Adi Kantor**, one of the authors of “Contemporary Antisemitism in the Political Discourse of Five Western European Countries: Germany, France, Britain, Spain, Ireland.”

The study, a joint project of the **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv and the Jewish Agency, studied expressions of antisemitism by politicians and political parties in the five Western European nations between late 2019 and late 2020. The research does not include the spike in antisemitism that occurred in Europe and the US during Israel’s 11-day Operation Guardian of the Walls against Hamas in May 2021.

“We wanted to try to understand how this phenomenon is on the one hand influenced by deep, global trends and broad social trends, where it is influenced by local characteristics, like Islamists in France, the right-wing in Germany, (former Labour Party leader Jeremy) Corbyn in the UK, and where it is influenced by unanticipated events like the coronavirus or the ‘yellow vest’ protests in France,” said **INSS** researcher **Shahar Eilam**, a former high-ranking IDF intelligence officer.

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