

ANTISEMITIC WORDS AND IMAGES: PAST AND PRESENT

Directions: In this exercise, you will review the three types of antisemitism discussed in this lesson and identify how a variety of words and images have been and continue to be used as a tool to perpetuate antisemitic ideas by completing the following steps:

1. Review the three types of antisemitism.
2. Read the three statements paying particular attention to when the statement was made and by whom, and then answer the questions that follow, using the statement number as a reference.
3. Study the six images paying particular attention to how these pieces build upon long-held stereotypes of Jews and then answer the questions that follow, using the image number as a reference.

Types of Antisemitism

Classic expressions of antisemitism: Examples include the plot of the Jews to take over the world, blame placed on Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the association of Jews to the devil, accusations such as blood libel, and poisoning of wells.

New forms of antisemitism based on old ideas: Examples include the reappearance and use of classical expressions including the depiction of Jews as evil and subhuman (e.g., represented as spiders, bloodthirsty vampires, and octopuses), their quest for world domination and control over the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.

New expressions of antisemitism: Examples include the denial and distortion of the Holocaust. It is also expressed as opposition to the State of Israel's right to exist, which can include demonization of its people and its leaders and drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Statements

1. "I agree wholeheartedly with [Iranian] President Ahmadinejad. There was no such a [sic] thing as the 'Holocaust.' The so-called 'Holocaust' is nothing but Jewish/Zionist propaganda. There is no proof whatsoever that any living Jew was ever gassed or burned in Nazi Germany or in any of the territories that Nazi Germany occupied during World War II. The Holocaust propaganda was started by the Zionist Jews in order to acquire worldwide sympathy for the creation of Israel after World War II."

—Dr. Abdullah Muhammad, Saudi professor, interview with the Iranian Mehr News Agency, December 26, 2005

2. "Some of you think that I'm just somebody who's got something out for the Jewish people. You're stupid. Do you think I would waste my time if I did not think it was important for you to know Satan? My job is to pull the cover off of Satan so that he will never deceive you and the people of the world again."

—Louis Farrakhan, speech on Saviours' Day, Rosemont, Illinois, February 27, 2011

3. “The Jew is contrary to our being. ... He desecrated our people, spit on our ideals, paralyzed the strength of the nation, made our customs rotten, and polluted the morale.”

—Joseph Goebbels, German politician and Reich Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945

Questions

- a. Which statement is an example of a “new expression of antisemitism”? Cite specific words or phrases from the passage to support your choice.
- b. Which statement is an example of a “new expression of antisemitism,” based on old ideas? Cite specific words or phrases from the passage to support your choice.
- c. Which statement is an example of a “classic expression of antisemitism”? Cite specific words or phrases from the passage to support your choice.

Images



1. Cartoon from a Jordanian newspaper, *Ad-Dustur*, August 2006



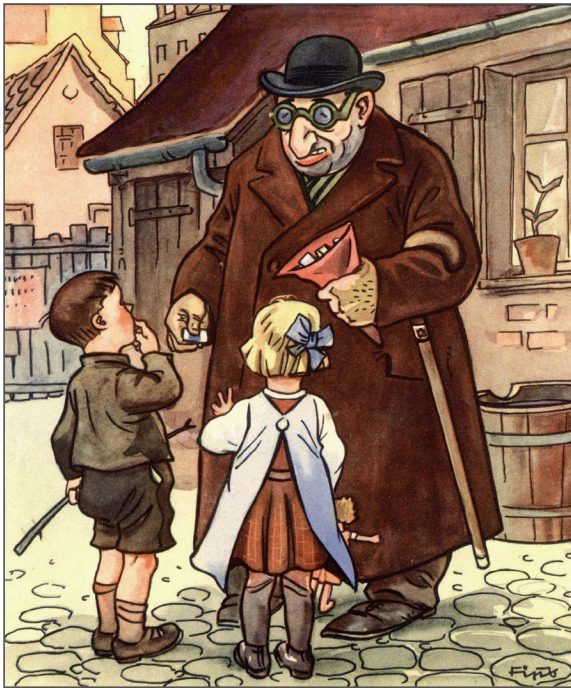
2. Cartoon from *Al-Khalij*, United Arab Emirates, July 2014



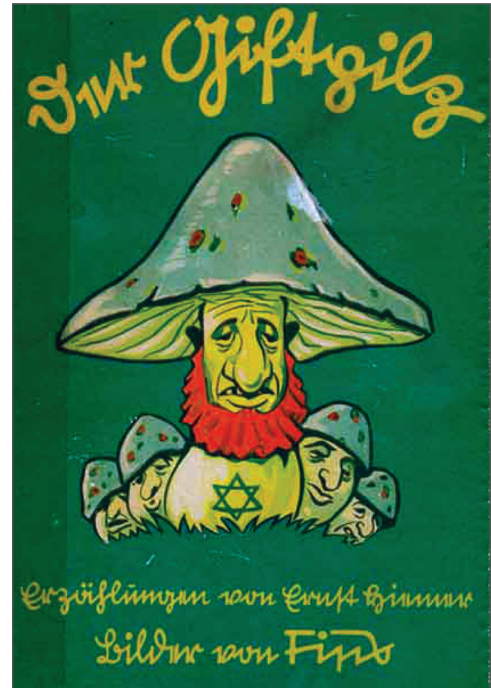
3. Tattoo from a demonstration in Seattle, Washington, January 2009



4. Cartoon from a Qatari newspaper, *Al-Watan*, September 2011



5. Caricature of a Jew with Aryan Children from children's book, *The Poisonous Mushroom*



6. Cover of a children's book, *The Poisonous Mushroom*

Questions

- a. Choose two images that are examples of “classic expressions of antisemitism,” and identify exactly what is portrayed in the images that led you to your answer.

