

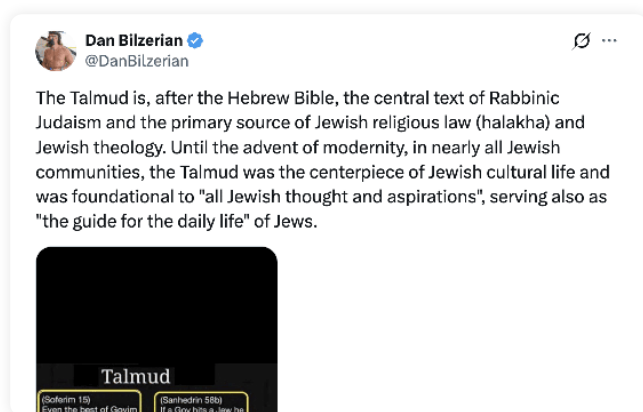
Antisemitic Myths 101:

How Antisemitism Recruits: Five Conspiracy Theories and How They Fall Apart

1. “The Talmud Says So”

Antisemitic conspiracy theories rarely arrive as open hatred. They arrive as history you were never taught, scripture someone has finally read for you, a tragedy whose official story feels too clean, a war you have every right to question. The entry point is curiosity or grief. The destination is always the same: the Jews did it.

Here are five of the most common ones, what each actually claims, why it falls apart, and the trick it runs to pull people in. None are new. Most have run for decades, some for centuries. But under their different costumes, they all work the same way: take something tiny, or nothing at all, and inflate it into a vast hidden plot, then seal it shut so no fact can get in.



The claim. That the Talmud, one of Judaism's central texts, secretly instructs Jews to cheat, rob, and harm non-Jews, whom it supposedly calls less than human. It is usually presented as brave independent research: someone announces they have “read the Talmud” and emerged shocked, then posts a tidy graphic of damning quotes with citations like “Sanhedrin 57a.” Influencer-turned-congressional-candidate [Dan Bilzerian](#) is a recent example, telling millions he has been studying Judaism and is alarmed by what he found.

Why it falls apart. Begin with the physical book, because it ends the conversation before a single quote is examined. The Talmud is 2,711 double-sided pages across 63 tractates, written in Aramaic and Hebrew, in a dense unpunctuated style that takes years of training to follow.

The standard English translation [runs to 73 volumes](#) and took a team of scholars fifteen years and an estimated 21 million dollars to produce.

Nobody cracks that open between podcast appearances and emerges a week later with the hidden truth. They did not read the Talmud. They read a meme of the Talmud, a list of fake quotes passed hand to hand since the Middle Ages.

These citations tend to be edited, fabricated, or removed of any context. Many of the oft-used examples have a paper trail running back to figures like the 19th-century agitator August Rohling and Justinas Pranaitis, the prosecution's "Talmud expert" at the 1913 Beilis blood-libel trial, [whose credibility collapsed on the stand](#) when he could not define basic terms from the text he claimed to have mastered.

The trick underneath. The citation is built to be checked by no one so that it can mean whatever you want it to mean. "Sanhedrin 57a" looks like rigor, and whoever posts it is counting on the fact that no one in the audience owns a 73-volume Aramaic library or is willing to study the wider context of what it actually implies.

And even an honest reader would find no rulebook to quote, because the Talmud is not one. It is a written record of rabbis arguing, with the rejected opinion preserved on the page beside the accepted one so students can trace why that argument lost. It is also famously a place where rabbis would stretch arguments to their most extreme conclusions to ensure academic rigor. A particularly wild example included the rabbis asking [if a farmer is allowed to plough a field using a goat and a fish](#). Pulling a single line out and calling it Jewish doctrine is quoting the side that lost the case and calling it the verdict.

Where it leads. This is not a debate-club exercise. In 2009, 88-year-old white supremacist and Holocaust denier shot and killed a security guard in an attack on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He had written a book/manifesto titled "Tob Shebbe Goyim Harog – Kill the Best Gentiles," a reference to a regularly mistranslated and misconstrued out-of-context line from the Talmud used by antisemites to imply Jews command the killing of all non-Jews.

And this doesn't only affect Jews. In 2022, the gunman who targeted Black people and murdered ten people at a Buffalo supermarket [filled his manifesto with fake Talmud quotations](#), citing them as proof that Jews are taught to "hate and exploit" non-Jews. The forged scripture had done its work long before he picked up a rifle. It told him his neighbors followed a secret law against him, and he believed it enough to kill.

2. The “Dancing Israelis”



The claim. That five Israeli men were caught filming and celebrating as the Twin Towers burned on 9/11, proving Israel had foreknowledge of the attacks, or a hand in them. It has been a fixture of 9/11 conspiracy lore for over twenty years, kept alive by its one real detail: five Israeli men were detained near the World Trade Center that day and questioned. The episode still surfaces in the mainstream, as when [Theo Von raised it on his podcast](#), one of the largest in the country, as a quiet way to imply Israeli involvement.

The myth is still prevalent among 9/11 conspiracy theorists with the phrase “Google: Dancing Israelis” often being posted alongside the phrase “The Jews did 9/11.”

Why it falls apart. The men worked for a moving company and were swept up in the dragnet that pulled in thousands across the New York area in the chaos of that morning. The FBI investigated them through its Newark and New York field offices and [concluded, in writing, that they had no advance knowledge](#) of the attacks.

They were never charged with anything related to 9/11. They were deported for working in the country without authorization, an immigration matter.

No investigation, in any country, has ever turned up evidence that Israel knew about the attacks or took part in them. Even [The Grayzone](#), a publication fiercely hostile to Israel, dug into it for years and came up empty.

The trick underneath. This is inflation in its purest form: take something tiny and blow it up into everything. Here is the whole seed of the theory, stated plainly. A few young men reacted stupidly to watching a catastrophe and got detained in a city that was detaining everyone.

From that pebble, the theory constructs a global intelligence operation in which Mossad, one of the most secretive agencies on Earth, supposedly chose to mark its triumph by sending agents to stand on a New Jersey rooftop, in daylight, on camera.

The story needs Israel to be powerful enough to attack America and erase every trace, and at the same time foolish enough to dance for the cameras. It cannot be both. A spy agency that good does not get caught

celebrating; a crew that careless does not pull off the crime of the century. The theory survives only by never asking you to hold its two halves in your head at the same time.

Where it leads. The Goyim Defense League, a network whose stated goal is driving Jews out of America, was built on this exact claim. Its founder has said the first banner he ever dropped, the one that launched the group, read “GOOGLE 5 DANCING ISRAELIS.” The theory was not a passing curiosity for them. It was the recruiting pitch they used to gather a movement that now stands outside synagogues with megaphones.

3. “Israel Killed Charlie Kirk”

The claim. That the September 2025 assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk was secretly orchestrated by Israel, because Kirk had supposedly grown critical of it. This is a new turn on an old reflex: when a prominent figure dies suddenly, go looking for the Jew behind it. Far-right conspiracy theorists immediately wasted no time after Kirk’s death to start pointing fingers at Jews. Neo-Nazi Christopher Pohlhaus asserted it was part of a Great Replacement global takeover by the “untermensch mob,” a reference to the antisemitic conspiracy of Jews pushing a “one world government.” Stew Peters wrote “pretty obvious that Israel ordered the hit after Charlie started noticing.” Adding “noticing,” a popular phrase among antisemites to claim they have discovered proof of Jewish conspiracies and control, is a major tell about who your intended target is.

The same was done with President Kennedy’s killing and with sudden deaths long before his. In Kirk’s case it spread through influencers who cast doubt on the official account and pointed, without evidence, toward Jerusalem.

Why it falls apart. The case is not a mystery. A suspect, Tyler Robinson, was arrested and charged. Within hours of the shooting he [confessed to his partner by text and pointed them to a note he had left](#), stating he had the chance to take out Kirk and was going to take it.

Investigators recovered the rifle, carrying his DNA. The texts and the charging documents lay out [a personal motive](#), Robinson’s own fury at Kirk’s politics. Israel appears nowhere: not in the confession, the forensics, the texts, or the charges.

The trick underneath. Watch what the theory does with that evidence: it runs backwards. It does not start from facts and arrive at Israel. It starts at Israel and treats the total absence of any Israeli link as the proof.

No evidence? That is how you know the cover-up worked. A confession with a clear personal motive? Planted, or coerced, or a distraction from the real story. This is the sealed room every one of these theories eventually builds, where evidence for it counts as proof and evidence against it counts as proof too.

A claim that nothing could ever disprove is not a strong claim. It is not a claim at all. It is a verdict reached in advance, hunting for a body to pin to it.

Where it leads. Watch how fast “Israel” became “the Jews.” Within days of the killing, [the most viral posts](#) had dropped the euphemism entirely, declaring “the Jews killed Charlie Kirk, the Jews killed JFK,” folding his death into a fantasy of Jews as the hidden hand behind every American assassination. Posts blaming Israel or Jews for the murder drew more than 139 million views on X. The claim started at a foreign government and arrived, in under a week, at the Jewish people.

4. “Israel Controls the Government”

The claim. That Israel, or a Jewish lobby acting on its behalf, secretly controls American foreign policy and drags the United States into wars that serve Israel rather than America. It is one of the oldest antisemitic charges in a modern suit: that Jews are never truly loyal citizens but agents of a hidden foreign agenda. Real events feed it, and the 2026 US strikes on Iran were the most recent example. You can hear it in the language that followed: America “went to war for the benefit of Israel,” the country is “blackmailed” or “held hostage.” In its crudest fringe form, people use the initialism “ZOG,” or Zionist Occupied Government – which is a term that’s been in use by white supremacist groups since the 1970s to claim Jews control the US government.

Why it falls apart. First, the line that matters: criticizing American policy toward Israel is not antisemitic. Debating military aid, the alliance, or the decision to strike Iran is ordinary democratic argument, and people across the political spectrum do it in good faith.

The conspiracy works differently. It treats the policy as proof that the government was never really America’s to begin with, that it has been secretly captured, and that the hidden hand is Jewish.

A rash of antisemitic claims about Israel controlling the U.S.’s military policy popped up in 2026 following the U.S. launching air strikes against Iran in 2026. Nexus President Jonathan Jacoby wrote about this trend in [The Hill](#).

But look at who actually has the upper hand. Just this month, as Israel kept escalating against Hezbollah in Lebanon while Trump was trying to close a deal with Iran, the President did not behave like anyone’s puppet. He confirmed publicly that he [had called Netanyahu “crazy”](#) on the phone, said he told the prime minister he had “[no judgment](#)” after an Israeli strike on Beirut, posted “Let’s not blow it!” at him, and at the G7 said flatly that Netanyahu “has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon.”

It’s not the first time. In June 2025, when Israel kept striking Iran after a ceasefire Trump had announced, the President did not quietly petition his supposed master. He [posted, in all capitals, “ISRAEL. DO NOT DROP THOSE BOMBS... BRING YOUR PILOTS HOME, NOW!”](#) He told reporters flatly, “I’m not happy with Israel.” Within

hours, [Netanyahu's office confirmed it had halted the strikes](#) after the call.

This worldview that relies on the trope of the Israeli puppeteer controlling the United States government ignores reality and only serves to pin negative actions from the US on the Jewish people.

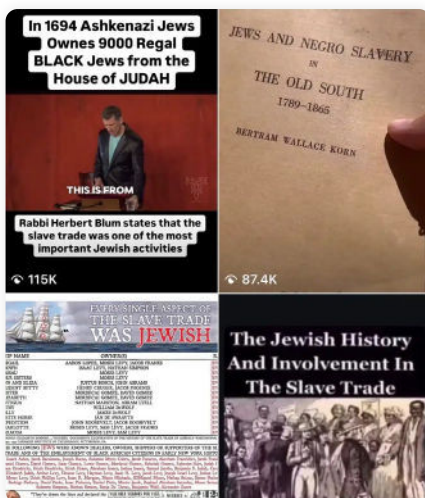
The trick underneath. Strip it down and it is a victim complex dressed as analysis. The most powerful country on earth recasts itself as the helpless pawn of a nation smaller than New Jersey, because being secretly manipulated is easier to live with than owning your own choices.

It is the same inversion that tells white Americans they are the true victims, being “replaced” and manipulated by Jews, while they hold the largest share of power in the country. The move is identical both times: take the group with the most power, cast it as the group being controlled, and slot a hidden Jewish hand in as the reason.

And it quietly trades a fair question for a poisoned one. “Should we be fighting this war” is a worthwhile discussion to have. “They are making us fight it” is the conspiracy, and it ends the argument by handing the blame to Jews. The first keeps you thinking. The second tells you you’ve been duped, and names the Jews as the ones who duped you.

Where it leads. This is where the conflation turns deadly. In March 2026, a man drove a truck into Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan, then opened fire, while the synagogue’s preschool was full of children. The FBI determined the attack was retaliation for an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon. He did not travel to Israel. He [went to the nearest synagogue](#), because the theory had taught him that American Jews and the Israeli state are one and the same. That is the entire engine of the lie: blame “Israel,” then collect the debt from Jews.

5. “Jews Ran the Slave Trade”



The claim. That Jews controlled or dominated the transatlantic slave trade, a charge aimed especially at Black Americans and offered as suppressed history that establishment scholars supposedly hide. Its modern form traces to one source, a 1991 Nation of Islam book, and figures across the spectrum have kept it in circulation since, more recently including Candace Owens before large audiences.

Why it falls apart. The numbers are not close. Historians of the Atlantic slave trade, among them David Brion Davis and Seymour Drescher, have found [the Jewish role in it minimal](#), dwarfed by the European and colonial powers who ran the trade.

In the American South, Jews were [about 1.25 percent of slaveholders](#), in line with their small share of the population rather than above it. In 1830, four Jews stood among the 11,000 Southerners who owned fifty or more slaves. The American Historical Association, the leading body of professional historians in the country, passed a [formal resolution rejecting the claim](#) that Jews played a disproportionate part.

The trick underneath. That 1991 book wrapped its argument in more than a thousand footnotes, and the footnotes are the entire con. It hunted down every Jewish slaveholder in the record and presented the roster as proof of domination, while never once counting the far larger number of non-Jewish slaveholders standing right beside them.

A list of names with nothing to measure it against proves nothing; it only looks like proof. The numbers that would have settled the question were available the whole time, and they point the opposite way.

[Henry Louis Gates Jr. called the book “the bible of the new anti-Semitism,”](#) and its method, a mountain of citations stacked around a question they never answer, is the tell to watch for wherever these theories appear.

Where it leads. The same Goyim Defense League [prints and distributes flyers](#) claiming Jews were responsible for the transatlantic slave trade, part of a propaganda effort built to convince Black Americans that Jews are their enemy. The “suppressed history” is not an argument anyone is making in good faith. It is manufactured material, produced and dropped on lawns to turn one community against another.

The Tell

The five lies look nothing alike on the surface. A holy book, a video clip, a murder, a war, a chapter of American history. Underneath, the same few mechanisms keep turning.

Something tiny or invented gets inflated into a vast plot. Citations no one checks and footnotes that count for nothing get dressed up as rigor. The villain has to be all-powerful and ridiculous at once. And the whole thing seals shut, so every fact, present or missing, is read back as confirmation.

That is the tell, and it matters more than any single rebuttal, because the machine bolts onto anything. Reading scripture is good. Questioning a war is good. Demanding the facts of a killing is good. Reckoning honestly with the history of slavery is necessary. None of that is the problem.

The problem is the structure that takes each honest impulse and routes it to the same address. When every road, wherever it starts, arrives at the Jews, you are not following the evidence. You are being walked somewhere, and it is worth asking who is doing the walking.