

The Philosophy of Hate and the Anomaly of Anti-Semitism

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Hate

- Intense feeling of dislike or animosity towards a person, group, or thing,
- Often characterized by a desire to harm or see harm inflicted,
- Driven by various factors: prejudice, fear, jealousy, resentment, and anger,
- Expressed through actions, words, or thoughts,
- Hate is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon,
- A variety of philosophical perspectives,
- Some argue hate is an irrational and destructive emotion,
- Others see hate as a necessary and even positive force for social change.

Philosophers

Nietzsche

- Hate a natural and even healthy emotion that inspires the pursuit of goals and assert will-to power.
 - Hate could be a sign of strength and vitality,
 - Motivate individuals to challenge social norms and strive for excellence.
 - Hate an essential aspect of the creative process,
 - Help individuals to break free from the constraints of tradition and convention,
 - An essential aspect of human existence,
 - But needs tempered by reason, self-awareness, and a commitment to self-transcendence.
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Plato

- Hate destructive force that could lead to harm and injustice,
- Love is the highest form of human emotion and hate is a perversion of love,
- Hate arises when we become attached to things that are temporary and unreal,
- Place too much importance on material possessions or worldly success,
- Become vulnerable to feelings of envy, jealousy, and resentment,
- Irrational and unproductive can lead to conflict and suffering.
- Hate as a symptom of ignorance and lack of self-knowledge,
- Hate because do not understand themselves or their place in the world,
- Need greater self-awareness and insight into the true nature of reality.

Ayn Rand

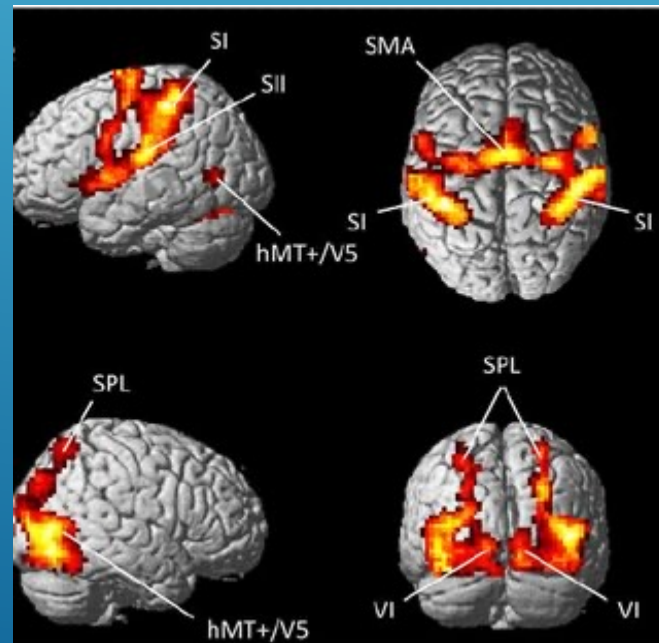
- Emphasized the importance of rational self-interest and individualism,
- Individuals pursue goals and desires without regard for the needs or interests of others,
- Engage in voluntary exchange with others when it serves their own self-interest,
- Hate was a negative emotion that could cloud an individual's judgment and lead to destructive behavior. Hate as a form of collectivism,
- Individuals identified with a group rather than with themselves as individuals.
- Collectivism form of intellectual and moral corruption,
- Lead to totalitarianism and the suppression of individual rights,
- Believed that individuals had a right to defend themselves,
- Self-defense rational response to aggression, individuals use force to protect their rights.


Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Complex and nuanced view on hate,
- Human beings were naturally good and virtuous, but that society and civilization corrupted them.
- Led them astray from their natural state of harmony and goodness,
- Hate was a product of social inequality and injustice,
- Individuals became hateful when rights and interests were being threatened or violated,
- Society and its institutions perpetuated inequality and injustice, this is the root cause of hate and conflict,
- Create a just and egalitarian society individuals with equal rights and opportunities,
- Individuals be educated and empowered to recognize their common interests.
- Social contract,
- Individuals voluntarily give up certain freedoms to secure their basic rights,
- Individuals needed to be educated and trained to control their passions and act rationally,
- Society has a duty to provide the necessary education and training.

Neurology of hate

- When participants view a hated face, several areas of the brain became activated,
- CT noninvasive diagnostic imaging procedure uses special X-ray measurements to produce horizontal, or axial, images of the brain,
- MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan produces clear images of the structures inside the brain. MRI uses a large magnet, radio waves and computer to produce images.



- The greater the reported hate, the more these areas were activated.
 - Involves various neural pathways and brain regions. the amygdala, insula, anterior cingulate cortex, and prefrontal cortex. work together to process and regulate emotional responses.
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Psychology of hate

Daniel Kahneman behavioral decision making.

- Dual process theory: there are two distinct systems System 1 is fast, intuitive, and automatic, while System 2 is slow, deliberate,
- System 1 thinking is responsible for everyday decisions,
- Availability heuristic: the tendency for people to judge the likelihood of an event based on how easily it comes to mind,
- Anchoring effect occurs when people rely too heavily on the first piece of information they receive when deciding,
- Groupthink: the tendency of a group of people to conform to a particular way of thinking or decision-making.

Jonathan Haidt.

- Instant judgments about morality experienced as "flash of intuition,"
- Perceptions operate rapidly, associatively, and outside of consciousness,
- Diverges from rationalist theories of morality: Kohlberg's stage theory of moral reasoning,
- Hate an appraisal that a person or group is evil.
- Hate unique features, the motivation to eliminate the object of hate,
- Revenge is often a part of hate,
- The idea behind revenge is to hurt the person/group as much as you have been hurt by them,
- Easier to hate groups than individuals,
- Hate spreads and increases faster if directed at a group,
- Intensity of hate grows without specific persons or contrasting information about the group,
- Hate based on stereotypes.

Hate vs. anger

- Hate more engaged, want to eliminate— socially, mentally, or physically,
- Hate spreads easier than anger,
- Hate can spread from one generation to another much easier than anger,
- Anger more intense if experience event firsthand.
- Hate involves the whole individual/group, and not a particular aspect
- Anger considered more in terms of behavior,
- Anger to remove the obstacle posed by the other person.

Contempt vs. hate

- Contempt may arise from repeated anger, and nothing changes,
- Contempt is feeling the other person is not worthy of anger,
- Contempt the cold version of hate,
- With hate, you cannot be indifferent,
- Hate is a long-term experience.

Disgust

- Known to predict prejudice and discrimination.
- Moral individuals prone to physical disgust also prone to moral disgust.

Manifestation of disgust

Ugandan **Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023**

- life imprisonment for gay sex
- Death penalty for aggravated homosexuality: serial offenders with a previous conviction of homosexuality.

Nexus between Philosophy and Law: Legality of hate speech

Assaultive hate speech

- Based on the nature and intent,
- Intended to harm, intimidate, or threaten an individual or group of people based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics,
- Explicit and direct attacks on individuals or groups, incite violence or discriminatory behavior.
- Assaultive speech, words used as weapons to ambush, terrorize, wound, humiliate, and degrade.
- Produce “direct, immediate, and substantial injury” such as “immediate mental or emotional distress.”
- Long-term effects of hate speech on victims,
- Victims first experience “psychological symptoms and emotional distress”.

Propaganda hate speech.

- Promote a particular ideology hostile or discriminatory towards a particular group of people,
- May be more subtle and indirect, using rhetoric, misinformation, or manipulation.

Pornography and Silencing

- Distinct but interconnected issues discussed in the context of free speech and censorship.

Pornography

- Controversial topic impact on individuals and society. Can be empowering for individuals and serve as a form of expression and exploration,
- Others argue harmful and perpetuates stereotypes and attitudes towards women and marginalized groups.


Silencing

- Suppressing or restricting speech, often for political or ideological reasons,
- Many forms, including censorship, deplatforming, and harassment,
- Some argue that silencing is necessary to protect marginalized groups.
- Others argue infringes on free speech rights and used to suppress dissenting voices.

Reason to ban hate speech

- Lead to acts of violence and discrimination against individuals and communities.
- Contribute to the spread of harmful stereotypes and reinforce discriminatory attitudes,
- Lead to hate crimes and other forms of violence.
- Erode sense of safety and security,
- Exclude and marginalize from society,
- Less likely to participate in public debate and discussion,
- Banning hate speech, a strong message attitudes and behaviors will not be tolerated,
- Create more inclusive and respectful society, individuals feel valued and accepted.

Arguments against banning hate speech

- A chilling effect on free speech and democratic discourse.
 - Freedom of speech and expression,
 - Combat hate speech through debate and discussion, not censorship.
 - Difficult to define and enforce,
 - Silence dissenting voices and opinions.
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Slurs and Code Words

- Subtler forms may fall outside the scope of narrower conceptions of hate speech,
- Slurs' derogatory content is determined by the social institution's ideology and practices.
- The subtlety of coded language, calls its status as hate speech into question,
- Lacks the kind of immediacy often attributed to hate speech.

What is the proper focus?

- Some argue: “Rather than focus on what a certain category of speech causes,”, we ought to be “interested in what such speech does”,
- By focusing only on the harms caused by hate speech, drawn into a debate about balancing the costs and benefits of permitting or regulating speech, which often leads to an impasse.
- Turning attention to the acts hate speech constitutes can reveal features that help us avoid question of balancing harms, and opens the door to regulation,
- In the United States, hate speech is not protected by the First Amendment in cases where it incites imminent violence.

Criminalizing hate speech

- Civil remedies,
- Education and awareness,
- Private sector intervention: social media platforms, mechanisms for reporting and removing hate speech.

The Criminal Code of Canada

- Provisions that make it a criminal offense to promote hatred against any identifiable group. Criminal Code Section 319,
- Advocates or promotes genocide or promotes hatred against identifiable group, guilty of indictable offense.
- Laws are balanced with protections for freedom of expression,
- Courts interpreted hate speech laws to prohibit only the most extreme forms of expression that go beyond the bounds of reasonable discourse and promote hatred against identifiable groups.

Canadian law

- Whatcott Case (2013): In this case, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the hate speech conviction of William Whatcott,
- Distributed flyers targeting homosexuals in Saskatoon.
- Whatcott argued that he was exercising his freedom of expression,
- Court ruled that the flyers promoted hatred against an identifiable group.

Libel laws

- Designed to protect individuals or entities from false and harmful statements published or communicated to others,
- Used to seek damages or other forms of relief for the harm caused by such statements.

Defamation

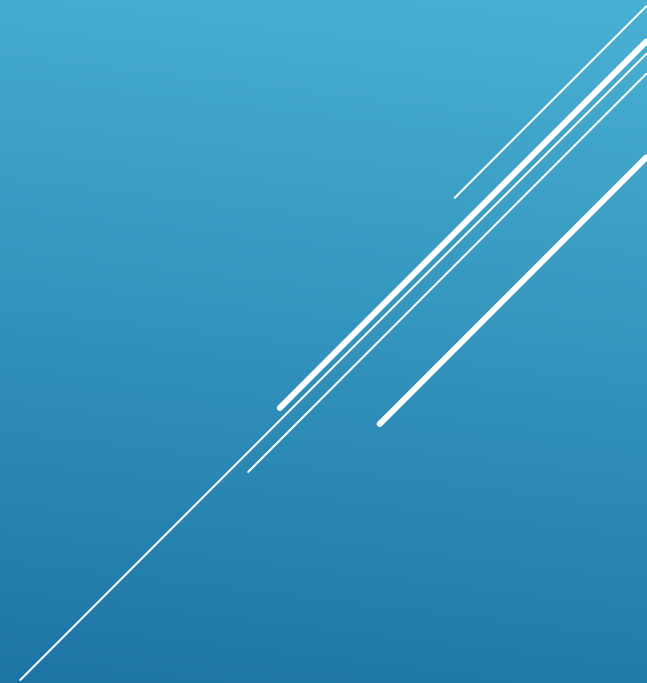
- Communicating to a third-party false statement about a person, place or thing that results in damage to reputation,
- Spoken (slander) or written (libel),
- A tort or crime.

Defamation laws

- Legal person
- Public officials
- State institutions
- Religions (e.g., blasphemy, discrimination)
- Judiciary or legislature (e.g., contempt of court, censure)
- The primary remedy for verbal defamation is civil action for a monetary penalty,
- Calculated to significance of the defamatory statement,
- Vindicate the defamed party's reputation and provide compensation for damages,
- A new remedy introduced with the extension of criminal law.

Internet transcending national boundaries,

- Questions of jurisdiction and conflicting limitation periods in trans-border online defamation cases.



Conclusion

- According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, no society has existed where speech has not been limited to some extent.
- Justice Brandeis articulated the First Amendment test based on four principles—freedom of conscience, democratic accountability, discovery of truth, and democratic self-government,
- The government can regulate speech under the First Amendment only when the speech is intended, and likely, to cause imminent and serious injury.
- Brandeis’s test was based on his Jeffersonian faith in the power of what he called “free and fearless reasoning”. “We have no choice but to think for ourselves”.

Woke: the good, the bad, the ugly and the bizarre

Woke

- In the context of social justice movements,
- Originally referred to being aware of social and political issues,
- Assumed broader meaning, and its implications can vary depending on the context.


The Good

- Individuals are more informed about the social and political issues affecting marginalized communities,
- Can lead to empathy, understanding,
- Willingness to take action to promote social justice.
- Challenging the status quo: can lead to positive change,
- Promoting inclusivity: creating spaces where valued and accepted.
- Greater equity and sense of community.

The Bad

- Overgeneralization: entire groups of people, leading to stereotypes and oversimplification,
- Divisiveness and a lack of nuance in conversations about social issues,
- Excessive self-righteousness,
- Prevent productive conversations,
- Unwillingness to listen or engage in critical self-reflection,
- Performance activism can lead to a lack of meaningful action,
- More interested in appearing "woke" than effecting change.

The Ugly

- Polarization and division,
 - Divisive concept that pits different groups against each other,
 - Cancel culture: individuals who express views deemed "wrong" are ostracized and silenced,
 - Overemphasis on identity: focus on identity politics,
 - Narrow focus on a single issue.
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The Bizarre

- Yale University is ranked No. 1 in Best Law Schools,
- A bipartisan panel on civil liberties at Yale Law School was disrupted when more than 100 law students tried to drown out and intimidate the speakers,
- Needed police to escort speakers out of the building,
- More than 400 students – 60% of the student body – signed an open letter supporting the "peaceful student protest,"
- "The danger of police violence in this country is intensified against Black LGBTQ people, and particularly Black trans people," "Police-related trauma includes, but is certainly not limited to, physical harm".
- California State University Monterey Bay encouraged students to report professors for 'racism' if they were not called upon in class.

Anomaly of anti-Semitism in a Woke environment.

Two billion people, or a quarter of the world's population, now live in conflict-affected areas, according to the United Nations.

Genocide

- Government or state sponsored intentional destruction of a people,
- Examples of genocide include: The Romani genocide—death toll 1.5 million out of an estimated 2 million Roma. The Rwandan and Cambodian Genocides. Rohingya: Indo-Aryan ethnic group, follow Islam and reside in Myanmar, denied citizenship. (2017 genocide). The Holocaust.
- Not all genocides capture the public's imagination: no demonstrations on university campuses for the Rohingya tragedy

Distinction between religious and racial forms of antisemitism

Racial antisemitism

- Jews constitute a distinct race that has inherent traits or characteristics that appear in some way abhorrent or inherently inferior from the traits or characteristics of the rest of a society,
- Abhorrence may find expression in the form of discrimination, stereotypes, or caricatures,
- Racial antisemitism present Jews, as a group, as a threat to the values or safety of a society,
- Racial antisemitism deeper-rooted than religious antisemitism, because for religious antisemites conversion remains an option and once converted the "Jew" is gone,
- In the context of racial antisemitism Jews cannot eliminate their Jewishness: Spanish Inquisition
- Jews constitute a distinct racial or ethnic group which negatively impacts gentiles,
- Martin Luther's 1543 treatise, *On the Jew and Their Lies*, Jews are a "base, whoring people, that is, no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and law must be accounted as filth".

Bourgeoisie casual antisemitism

- The Bloomsbury Group—or Bloomsbury Set,
- Group of associated English writers, intellectuals, philosophers, and artists in the first half of the 20th century,
- Including Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, E. M. Forster
- "I do not like the Jewish voice," wrote Virginia Woolf in her diary.
- "I do not like the Jewish laugh." Lytton Strachey wrote to Virginia's husband, Leonard, himself Jewish, condemning the "placid, easy-going vulgarity of your race", and Maynard Keynes wrote: "It is not agreeable to see civilization so under the ugly thumbs of its impure Jews who have all the money and the power and brains." And about Einstein, "He is a naughty Jew boy covered with ink - that kind of Jew."

Why the Jews

- A visible international minority: 16 million,
- Jews are relatively successful in certain high-profile fields. Jews comprise only 0.2% of the world's population, meaning their share of Nobel award winners is 110 times their proportion of the world's population
- 13 current Jewish owners of United States NBA and NFL sports teams
- Israel and the Palestinians: All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. Therefore, all men are Socrates.

Conclusion

- Incongruity of antisemitism on university campuses in the Woke Era
 - It has always been acceptable for the proletariat and the bourgeoisie to be Anti-Semitic.
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