The New Philosemitism:
Exploring a Changing Relationship Between Jews and the Far-Right
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By using philosemitism as a strategic tool to present as mainstream and non-racist, the far-right has begun to gain power, inform legislation and radicalise populations.

Actively pro-Jewish far-right sentiments are based off the same stereotypes of Jews as antisemitism, including seeing Jews as inherently too powerful and influential. Philosemitism and antisemitism are therefore, in this scenario, two sides of the same coin.

In order to avoid 'unfashionable' antisemitism, populist radical right groups have reframed their understanding of Jewishness and Israel within existing far-right ideologies, allowing them to present as pro-Jewish.

For example, populist radical right parties see Israel as militaristic, anti-Muslim and as a European frontier against the Arab world, generating pro-Israel policies and garnering Jewish supporters.

In many ways, these concepts mirror those taken by far-left and Islamist ideologies, generating processes of reciprocal radicalisation and resulting in far-right groups further entrenching into pro-Israel positions.

By reimagining the 'collective' in terms of a shared history and culture, a 'Judeo-Christian culture' has been constructed in order to include Jews, which deliberately misunderstands Jewish history and diversity.

Many antisemitic elements of populist radical right parties continue to exist, such as banning shechita, and Holocaust revisionism.

Despite continued antisemitism, such groups have begun to win the support of Jewish individuals. Such supporters prioritise some collective identities, such as being pro-Israel or anti-establishment, over others, in identity salience hierarchies.

Particularly in former Nazi occupied countries, the radical right has been forced to generate messaging around complicity in the Holocaust, in order to present as mainstream and gain supporters. Such tactics include guilt comparison, victim reversal, Holocaust revisionism and erasure.