

# RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS

WHITE SUPREMACISTS USE  
HOLOCAUST DENIAL TO RADICALIZE  
QANON AND MAGA

JANUARY 26, 2021

*This report is part of an American Jewish Congress initiative to combat domestic terrorism, including white supremacy and antisemitic extremism.*



# RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS

## HOLOCAUST DENIAL IS USED AS A GATEWAY TO FURTHER WHITE SUPREMACIST RADICALIZATION

Neo-Nazis were the first group to be de-platformed from mainstream social media channels and to move to alternative social media platforms. They have set the culture of these spaces, where Antisemitism, Nazi glorification, and Holocaust denial run rampant. Holocaust denial is used as a core catalyst for this online radicalization that is organized by white supremacists.

While the efforts made by major social media companies to de-platform QAnon and white supremacists has decreased the reach of both groups, including their ability to recruit from the wider community, a new dangerous trend has developed.

Specifically, white supremacists are now focusing their efforts on radicalizing and recruiting from the QAnon supporters who are entering their alternative social media spaces. QAnon is in turn seeking to pull into these spaces those who have joined their exodus from mainstream social media channels.

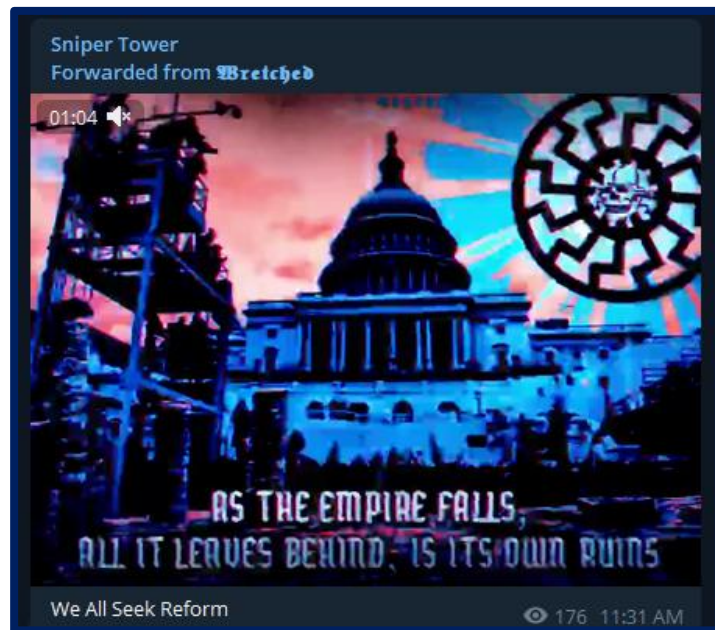
**Bottom Line:** While QAnon introduces the idea of conspiracy theories and integrates its followers into alternative social media channels, the Holocaust denial that exists on these platforms shows itself to new recruits, serving as a gateway to and catalyst for white supremacist terrorism.

### Holocaust denial on Telegram



A meme highlighting that the reason white supremacists focus on the Holocaust is first to debunk it, and then to repeat it. This is a meme from a channel dedicated to Holocaust denial memes on the Telegram platform.

### Nazi symbols on Telegram



A Telegram post featuring the Capitol, the Sonnenrad (black sun) and the Totenkopf. The Sonnenrad is an esoteric symbol used by the Nazis, and since the 1990s, is popular with younger neo-Nazis. The Totenkopf is the skull and crossbones device of the Nazi's SS.

# RADICALIZATION’S EXODUS

## QANON HEADS STRAIGHT INTO A RADICALIZATION PIPELINE

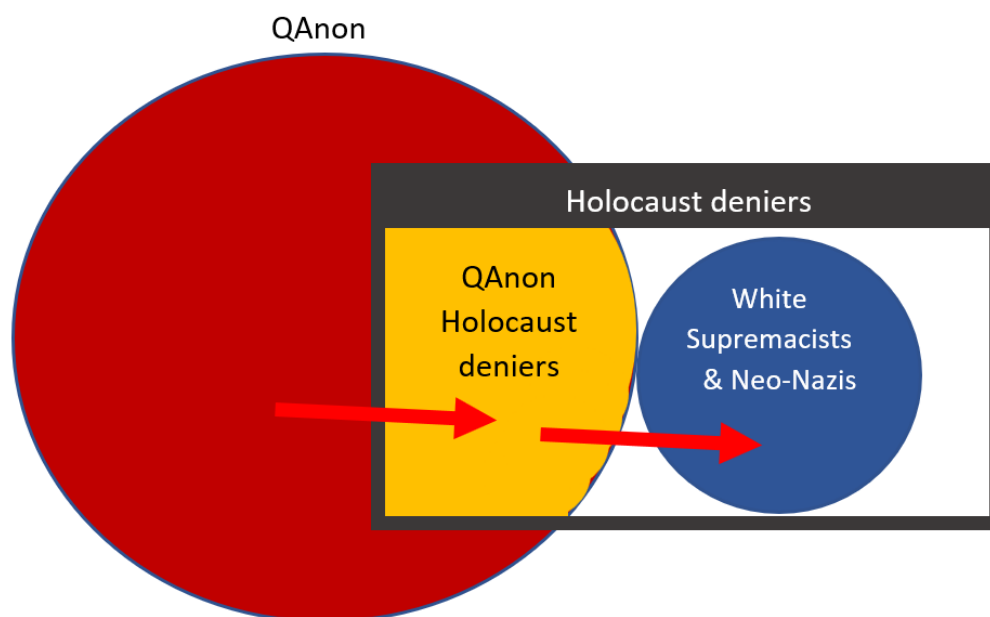
QAnon began on 4chan and 8chan, internet forums that provided an anonymous alternative to mainstream social media platforms. One of the earliest QAnon videos was posted to 4chan’s “politically incorrect” forum, entitled /pol/ in November 2017.

These forums also gave rise to the Alt-Right, and in 2019, to a series of white supremacist terror attacks, including the Christchurch mosque attack and the Poway synagogue attack. These attacks were the result of years of radicalization by white supremacists.

QAnon, due to de-platforming, is leaving mainstream social media channels where it went viral and attracted a huge new following. It is returning to its origins in alternative platforms, with many new supporters now alongside it who are entering these spaces for the first time.

Across these alternative platforms, neo-Nazi white supremacists are waiting for new recruits. They deny the Holocaust by presenting it as another conspiracy theory for QAnon supporters to explore, and Holocaust denial material as the secret ‘truth.’

**Bottom Line:** Those who become QAnon Holocaust deniers enter a pipeline for further radicalization, as the white supremacists seek to indoctrinate them into neo-Nazism and violent extremism.



- **QAnon** is a conspiracy theory movement. Many of its conspiracy theories have antisemitic origins.
- **Holocaust deniers** promote the conspiracy theory that the Holocaust is a lie.
- **QAnon Holocaust deniers** are QAnon supporters who promote Holocaust denial.
- **Neo-Nazis** often engage in Holocaust denial as a means of rehabilitating Nazi ideology.

# RADICALIZATION’S EXODUS

## AS QANON DEPARTS MAINSTREAM SOCIAL MEDIA, IT’S PULLING SOME TRUMP SUPPORTERS TOWARDS DANGER

Mainstream social media outlets initially de-platformed white supremacists, then more recently QAnon. Yet as QAnon followers depart these mainstream social media platforms for alternative platforms, they’re pulling along with them many mainstream supporters of President Trump (MAGA).

These MAGA supporters are being intimidated into thinking that they may be de-platformed from mainstream social media outlets next. As a result, many are closing their accounts on mainstream platforms like Twitter and following the exodus to alternative platforms. There, they are being put at risk of exposure to the same white supremacist radicalization as are the QAnon followers.

### In our previous [Capitol Storming](#) report, we:

- Analyzed 24,000+ right wing Twitter accounts
- Found that 6% of them discussed insurrection
- Found that 40% of that 6% were QAnon
- Found that 60% of that 6% were MAGA

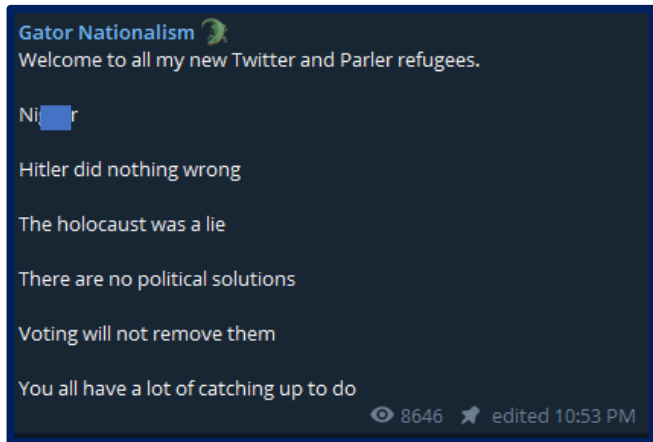
### Our new research shows that:

- 39% of the QAnon accounts that discussed insurgency are now suspended or closed
- 90% of the QAnon accounts were suspended by Twitter & 10% were closed by their users
- 23% of the MAGA accounts that discussed insurgency are now suspended or closed
- 70% of the MAGA accounts were suspended by Twitter & 30% were closed by their users

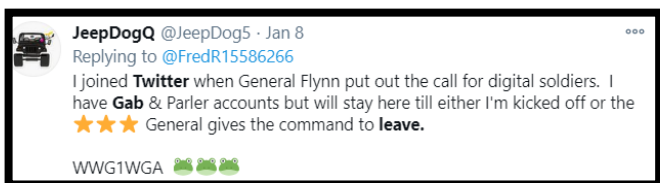
**Bottom Line:** MAGA users are far less likely to leave Twitter than QAnon users. Voluntary account closure is three times more likely from MAGA users than from QAnon users. The discourse promoted by QAnon is contributing to a self-imposed exile from Twitter by many MAGA supporters. They are then lured to fringe platforms, encountering Holocaust denial & white supremacist radicalization.



Gab’s account on Twitter uses QAnon’s slogan of *the storm* to attract people to the platform.



Far-right Telegram channels welcome “Twitter and Parler refugees.”



Some will stay on Twitter until they’re removed.



Trending hashtags on Twitter include #gab, #getongab, #twexit, #leavetwitter, #canceltwitter and #deletetwitter.

# RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS

## MAINSTREAM PLATFORMS AREN'T YET IMMUNE TO NEO-NAZI & WHITE SUPREMACIST MEMES

There is still much more work that needs to be done on mainstream social media platforms.

For instance, Twitter backtracked on a claim to have banned Holocaust denial and new Holocaust denial is now tweeted out daily. And despite policies against Holocaust denial on both YouTube and more recently on Facebook, and the companies' efforts to remove such content, instances of Holocaust denial remain. The Holocaust denial material that remains on these platforms helps funnel additional people to alternative platforms and further radicalization.

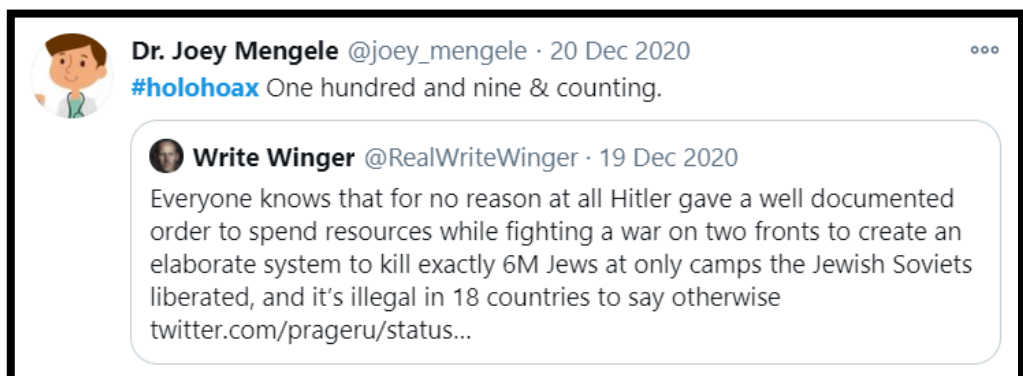
**Bottom Line:** Urgent action is needed now to stop the radicalization pipeline. Yet many of the alternative platforms where such radicalization takes place are based outside of the U.S, making this more difficult. Their unmoderated nature allows incitement and radicalization, while their use of anonymous or pseudonymous accounts hinders open source counter-intelligence efforts used by law enforcement. An international response is needed to tackle this domestic terrorist threat.



**YouTube:** David Cole denies the gas chambers at an IHR Holocaust revisionists' conference.



**Facebook:** A video post claiming Coronavirus is a hoax, along with the Holocaust.



**Twitter:** An account pretending to be the infamous Nazi Dr. Mengele, retweeting Holocaust denial.

---

*The American Jewish Congress was founded in 1918 by leaders like Justice Louis Brandeis, Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.*

*We shape the Jewish voice of tomorrow by defending Jewish interests at home and abroad through public policy advocacy, legislation, and the courts.*

---

