

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT

# 90 DAYS OF WHITE SUPREMACIST RADICALIZATION

EXTREMISM'S EVOLUTION IN A POST-JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> AMERICA

#### April 6, 2021

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

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** FROM INSURRECTIONIST RABBLE TO POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Americans watched in horror on January 6, 2021, as our Capitol building was ransacked by a motley crew of white supremacists, QAnon following conspiracy theorists, MAGA-inspired insurrectionists, and a cornucopia of Antisemitic activists. But while that attack had all the characteristics of a planned, yet not fully structured assault, in only three months' time, we have seen the political energy created by the assault converted into structured political activity.

#### This is the new American political reality, where extremism has gained a firm foothold in established mainstream American politics. And it is gaining momentum, especially with the rise of politicians like Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA).

It's for this reason that we, at the American Jewish Congress, have written this report: to ring the alarm bell for all Americans to see, with their own eyes, that right-wing extremist politics is taking root in our politics, with both immediate and long-term dark implications for our nation's governance. This politics is nourished by the types of relentless white supremacist radicalization efforts online that motivated the mob on January 6<sup>th</sup>. And they are now focused on leveraging the passion of the converted for political power.

This report is comprised of three main chapters that describe the moment we are in\*:

- 1) Capitol Storming: Neo-Nazi, QAnon, and Antisemitic Online Chatter
- 2) Radicalization's Exodus: White Supremacists Use Holocaust Denial to Radicalize QAnon & MAGA

**3) The New White Supremacist Politics**: How Marjorie Taylor Greene Uses Gab's Antisemitic Extremism to Fuel Her Political Power

This report makes it clear that while extremist radicalization was at one time shunned by mainstream politicians and ultimately kicked off of mainstream online platforms, it is now being both embraced by a rising set of leaders who seek to leverage this movement of extremists for political power and legitimacy.

We have attempted in this report to make clear to its readers that what's happening online is building a new political movement of hate that must be contended with. There is now, just 90 days after the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection, a new breed of white supremacist politics and politician. The Capitol insurrection was an inflection point for what had been at one point a rabble, but now, through orchestrated leadership by credible voices, is becoming a structured political movement with real political power. It is using these tools effectively and see January 6<sup>th</sup> not as a defeat or moment of shame, but as a symbol of what could be.

We therefore ask our readers to review the contents of the report not through a static lens, but as if it were a contemporaneous description of the world both as it is, and what it will be. This report is forward looking, providing meticulously researched work with visual examples and explanations of what these examples mean. In it, we attempt to provide context and explanations for what the reader is absorbing, understanding full well that the topic is laden not just with current actions, but also with the burden of the depressing history of white supremacy and antisemitism that has permeated our culture for decades upon decades.

In sum, through this report, we are sharing with the readers information about a new phenomenon in American politics. This is not antisemitism as we think we know it, nor is it hate crimes as we think we know it. It is time to ring the alarm bells, and we hope that this report will do just that for all Americans.

For something altogether different is happening now, something much darker, and we must take heed, as it seeks power in ways unimaginable only months ago.

\*We've already published the first two chapters separately, and yet due to the intensifying nature of the threat, felt obligated to both draft the third chapter and publish all three in one single report. We've also provided the chapters in, separately, an 'illustrated version' package and a 'text version' package, to ensure that the reader has a flexible choice on how to review the material.





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AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT

#### CHAPTER 1 - ILLUSTRATED VERSION

# **CAPITOL STORMING**

# NEO-NAZI, QANON & ANTISEMITIC ONLINE CHATTER

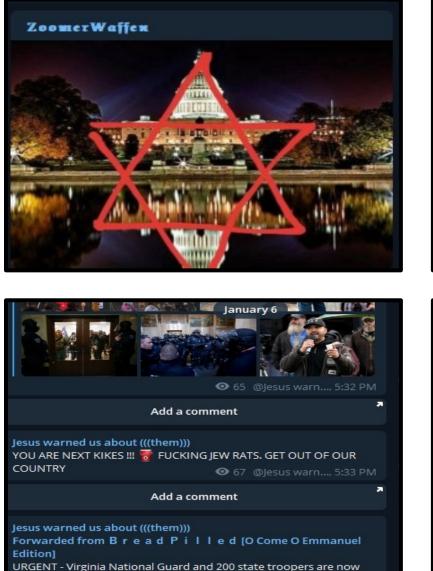
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## **CAPITOL STORMING** NEO-NAZI, QANON & ANTISEMITIC ONLINE CHATTER

The storming of the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup> by militant supporters of President Donald Trump featured several instances of Antisemitic agitation, from an extremist Holocaust denier who helped ransack House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) office to various individuals who displayed far-right and neo-Nazi slogans and symbols.

In the aftermath of the attack on the Capitol, chatter in unmoderated open-source online channels has spiked, publishing alarming Antisemitic and anti-Israel content, including death threats, calls for Jews to leave America, and depictions of Jewish symbols and Holocaust-related references.







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## **CAPITOL STORMING** SYMBOLS & SLOGANS USED BY NEO-NAZIS & QANON

We observed the following in our online monitoring:

- Strong neo-Nazi imagery, including drawings of the Capitol with a Black Sun behind it, and calls to both "Tear it down" and for a "White Revolution."
- Neo-Nazi imagery of a man holding the decapitated heads of President Trump and President-Elect Biden, with the distinctive neo-Nazi Black Sun symbol behind him.
- A Celtic neo-Nazi cross flag displayed inside the Capitol.
- People in the Capitol wearing Nazi and neo-Nazi symbols and phrases on their clothing.
- White nationalist groups from across the country glorifying their presence in the Capitol by showing photos of their presence in the Capitol on their Telegram channels.
- Call to action for "Boomers" to arm themselves, saturated with Nazi symbology.
- Efforts to spread fake news slogans to promote the narrative that the Capitol infiltration was a False Flag operation by Antifa.



The Nationalist Social Club (NSC) or 131 Crew (131 is alphanumeric code for ACA, Anti Communist Action) is a neo-Nazi group with small, autonomous regional chapters around the country.



QAnon is a far-right conspiracy theory movement that builds on antisemitic tropes.



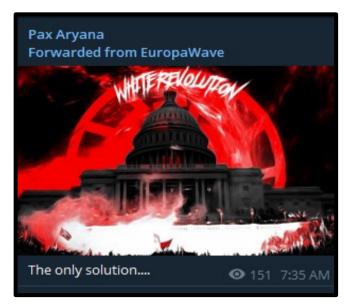


## CAPITOL STORMING NEO-NAZI & WHITE SUPREMACIST MEMES

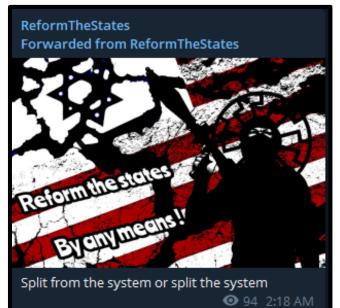
Memes identified in Telegram channels incited violence and promoted Antisemitic conspiracy theories.



This meme seeks to spread the popular far-right conspiracy theory of Jewish control of the U.S. Government.



This meme promotes a White Revolution, a goal called for in many White Supremacist terrorist manifestos in recent years, including in the Christchurch, New Zealand attack.



This meme incites violence calling for reform of the United States by "any means." An Israeli flag replaces the stars in the American flag, promoting the conspiracy theory of Jewish control of the U.S. Government.



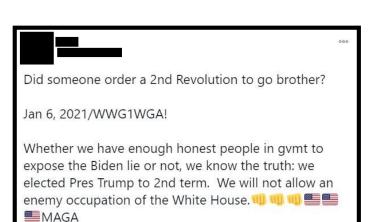
## **CAPITOL STORMING** QANON INSURGENCY & CONSPIRACY ON TWITTER

Analysis of over 24,000 right-wing Twitter accounts during January 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> show 6% engaged in insurrectionist discussion and 40% of those were associated with QAnon. Conspiracy theories presenting the Capitol Storming as a false flag operation by ANTIFA / the "Deep State" were common. Many of these accounts have since been suspended by Twitter.

Some accounts continue to spread the conspiracy theories on the Capitol attack and the elections.



It was Antifa dressed like Trump supporters that stormed in the Capital.Question them.What about Hunter Biden's emails.The fake Russia hoax on Trump with no EVIDENCE.What about big tech interfering in our elections.Fake news and you Democrats started it.



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The following are examples of tweets from accounts that are now suspended:

- "It was a planned false flag and Pelosi and Pence were in on it. Wake up."
- "...We are at RED3. Meaning Pelosi or Pence moved. RED 2 they cut communication then RED 1 they will delete Trump's Twitter. It's been told to us before. We know the plan and it's playing out perfectly. THE STORM IS ARRIVIN"
- "False Flag underway. Regain Initiative. Far-Near recognition signals. More violence at dark. Reestablish narrative control."
- "This false flag was completely orchestrated! [redacted] and the Patriots are in full control!
   WWG1WGA"
- "Oh is this not the woman they sent out on a gurney with fake blood? I hope she didn't really die but I truly believe its a hoax. So much of this is a false flag event, staged by Soros. Don't be fooled."







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#### CHAPTER 2 - ILLUSTRATED VERSION

## **RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS**

WHITE SUPREMACISTS USE HOLOCAUST DENIAL TO RADICALIZE QANON AND MAGA

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#### **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.



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.

# <text>

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.

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Nazi symbols on Telegram.

#### **RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS** QANON HEADS STRAIGHT INTO A RADICALIZATION PIPELINE

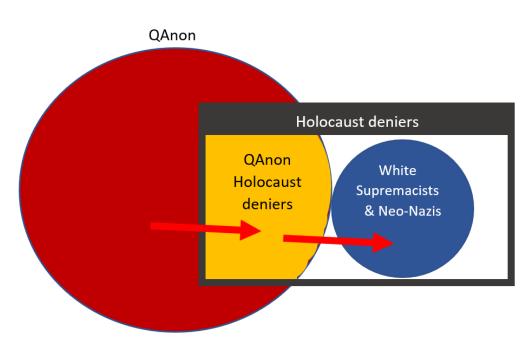
QAnon began on 4chan and 8chan, internet forums that provided an anonymous alternative to mainstream social media platforms. One of the earliest QAnon videos was posted to 4chan's "politically incorrect" forum, entitled /pol/ in November 2017.

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.

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- **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.

	JeepDogQ @JeepDog5 · Jan 8	000		
	Replying to @FredR15586266			
	I joined <b>Twitter</b> when General Flynn put out the call for digital soldiers. I have <b>Gab</b> & Parler accounts but will stay here till either I'm kicked off or the $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ General gives the command to <b>leave</b> .			
	WWG1WGA 🛎 🍋			

Some will stay on Twitter until they're removed.



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

Gator Nationalism Welcome to all my new Twitter and Parler refugees. Ni Hitler did nothing wrong The holocaust was a lie There are no political solutions Voting will not remove them You all have a lot of catching up to do

👁 8646 🖈 edited 10:53 PM

#### Far-right Telegram channels welcome "Twitter and Parler refugees."



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

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#### **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.

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







**AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT** 

CHAPTER 3 – ILLUSTRATED VERSION

# THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS

HOW MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE USES GAB'S ONLINE ANTISEMITIC EXTREMISM TO FUEL HER POLITICAL POWER

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#### THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS WHY WHITE SUPREMACY IS ANTISEMITIC & A THREAT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The American Jewish Congress is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 1918 to advance Jewish interests and rights both at home and abroad. We are deeply concerned about the rise in domestic terrorism in the U.S., including the steep rise of white supremacy and antisemitic extremism.

American Jews are a primary target of white supremacists and the trends are dire. In February 2020, the FBI warned of the "...increasingly lethal threat posed by violent extremism to the Jewish community." Data on domestic extremism from the first eight months of 2020 shows that white supremacists were responsible for 67% of domestic terrorist attacks. Definition of **Supremist** White Extremist: "A group or individual who facilitates or engages in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government. ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and/or their perception that the government is controlled bv Jewish persons." – Homeland Threat Assessment, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Oct. 2020.

<u>Bottom Line</u>: White supremacy is inherently an antisemitic ideology that draw on historic antisemitism, give it renewed energy, incite violence, and put the Jewish community at risk.

<u>That's why we've written this new special report</u>. It's our third in a series of reports that have focused on the links between online radicalization and domestic terrorism. It explains how these threats have dangerously seeped into the highest levels of our country's leadership and politics, as symbolized by this report's focus: **Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)**.

In the report, we explain how politicians like Greene systematically use social media to engage white supremacists in order to recklessly build their own political power, all the while strengthening white supremacists' impact on American politics. <u>Regrettably, we are now living in a dangerous era</u> <u>of new white supremacist politics.</u>



#### THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS WHY QANON'S CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE A THREAT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The QAnon conspiracy movement began in 2017 on the 4chan and 8chan message boards. The poster "Q," believed by supporters to be a high-level government insider, released a serious of cryptic messages they claimed will lead readers to the truth about a plot by the "deep state."

Q's messages reuse proven antisemitic tropes. The deep state conspiracy borrows heavily from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion,* a work of fiction created to blame the Jews for a wide

#### A Gab group promoting QAnon's Blood Libel.



range of ills in society. The protocols are presented as the minutes of a meeting of a secret group that is supposedly in control of the world and which plans disasters that harm people and countries to advance their interests. In QAnon this is presented as the deep state.

<u>Bottom Line</u>: QAnon is inherently an antisemitic ideology that draw on historic antisemitic conspiracy theories, give them renewed energy, incites violence, and put the Jewish community at risk.

QAnon also adopted the far newer "pizzagate" conspiracy, created in 2016, which claims that prominent politicians and members of Hollywood are part of a child trafficking ring. This is where the common QAnon hashtag #SaveTheChildren comes from. In essence, QAnon has integrated pizzagate with an antisemitic twist. It now claims the children are drained of blood, from which the chemical adrenochrome is then extracted and ingested as a drug. This is often described as being part of a satanic ritual.

This is the new, modern version of the antisemitic blood libel, which spread throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. The earliest of these cases was that of William of Norwich, who died in 1144. He was discovered stabbed to death and the Jewish community was falsely charged with killing him in order to use his blood in Passover rituals. QAnon uses historic church art depicting the blood libel to promote its modern conspiracy theory. Claims of blood libel have historically led to pogroms in which Jewish communities were massacred. The modern spread of blood libels is deeply concerning and inherently antisemitic.



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#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE'S HISTORY OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES, FROM ANTISEMITISM TO XENOPHOBIA

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) entered Congress on January 3, 2021. On February 4<sup>th</sup> she was removed on an almost party-line vote from her committee assignments due to her support for hateful and violent conspiracy theories that she still promotes.

"The most mistreated group of people in the United States today are white males." —Marjorie Taylor Greene (June 2020) Greene ran for election as an open supporter of the QAnon conspiracy theory. After she was elected, it emerged that she had posted her own bizarre conspiracy theory blaming the 2018 California fires on

Jewish space lasers and supported conspiracy theories that labelled the tragic school shootings in Sandy Hook and Parkland "false flag" planned events. She's also engaged in a 9/11 conspiracy, falsely claiming that there is no evidence of a plane crashing into the Pentagon, claimed that President Obama was Muslim, and went further into Islamophobia and white supremacy, by describing the election of Muslims Americans to Congress as "an Islamic invasion of our government."

**<u>Bottom Line</u>**: Greene is an unrepentant conspiracy theorist, whose embrace of this extremism strengthened her candidacy for Congress and actively helps her to maintain political power today.

Greene claiming Jewish 'space lasers' caused the deadly 2018 CA fires.



Marjorie Taylor Greene November 17, 2018 · ③

As there are now over 70 people confirmed dead and over 1,000 missing, the fires in CA are a horrific tragedy. I'm praying for all involved!

I'm posting this in speculation because there are too many coincidences to ignore, and just putting it out there from some research I've done stemming from my curiosity over PG&E stocks, which tanked all week then rallied Thursday night after CA official announced they would not let PG&E fail. I find it very interesting that Roger Kimmel on the board of directors of PG&E is also <u>Vice Chairman of Rothschild Inc</u>, international investment banking firm. I also find interesting the long history of financial contributions

that PG&E has made to Jerry Brown over the years and millions spent i must be that Gov Brown signed a bill in Sept 2018, protecting PG&E ar cost of fire responsibility to its customers in rate hikes, and through bc coincidence that the fires are burning in the same projected areas that Rail Project is to be built, which also happens to be Gov Brown's pet pi Feinstein's husband, Richard Blum is the contractor to the rail project! could build 3 US southern border walls. Then oddly there are all these what looked like lasers or blue beams of light causing the fires, and pic anything about that but I do find it really curious PG&E's partnership v generators starting in 2009. They announced the launch into space in them up before that. Space solar generators collect the suns energy ar transmitter to convert to electricity. The idea is clean energy to replace the suns energy back to Earth, I'm sure they wouldn't ever miss a trans society if a Member of Congress endorses white supremacy."
Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) (February 2021)

"We cannot build an equitable, anti-racist

Greene in a video promoting conspiracy theories about 9/11, the Clintons and Pres. Obama.



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#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** "GAB," A GROWING ONLINE HATE MACHINE, IS TURNING POLITICAL EXTREMISTS INTO STARS

Created in 2016, Gab is an alternative social media platform that lacks the boundaries and community standards that are now standard on mainstream social media platforms. A cross between Facebook and Twitter, Gab became

Gab is "an alternative social media network popular with conservatives, the alt-right and some extremists." - CNN

the central home for Alt-Right adherents and white supremacists driven off the mainstream social media platforms.

After the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack, Gab announced it had grown by more than 2.3 million new users in one week. Gab's founder stated that 33 million people visited the site in January. The growth came as mainstream platforms kicked out insurrectionists and the broader QAnon movement.

Gab's founder on hate speech.



<u>Bottom Line</u>: Gab's unrestricted nature makes it a magnet for haters whose numbers continue to skyrocket, providing an enticing online venue for extremist politicians who want to grow their power.

## A Gab post by the Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue shooter.



Antisemitism, Holocaust denial, COVID conspiracy theories and more recently QAnon have found a home on Gab. The content is normalized and spread as Gab allows it to be liked and shared.

Gab was the platform of choice for Robert Bowers, indited for killing 11 people at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018. It was on Gab that he posted "Screw your optics, I'm going in."

A Gab post promoting a white supremacy blog piece calling for "unconventional tactics" and "irregular politics," which may well be expressed through domestic terrorism.

2d · 🕉					
"From the perspective of white populism, all politics must now be irregular politics as conventional politics has been closed off to us. The Right has to move away from the mindset of the majority to the mindset of the put-upon minority. That means engaging in unconventional tactics. When you cannot participate in conventional politics in order to advance your interests, your choices are clear. You either submit and live the lie that is conventional politics, or you rebel and live outside the lie."					
🖒 Like	Comment	C Repost	99 Quote	ப் Share	

#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S ONLINE PLATFORM OF CHOICE IS "GAB," JUST LIKE IT IS FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF EXTREMISTS

Unlike other Members of Congress, Marjorie Taylor Greene's social media presence extends beyond mainstream platforms and onto Gab and the encrypted message platform Telegram. She has over 243,700 followers on Gab. Only her political Twitter account has a larger following.

Marjorie Taylor	Greene's social	media following.
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		<b>@gab</b>					
Account	Campaign Twitter	Gab	Campaign Facebook	Official Twitter	Official Facebook	Telegram	YouTube
Followers (3/4/21)	374.5k	243.7k	209.3k	180.2k	162.1k	134.2k	4.8k
Account Created	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2021	Oct. 2017	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2016

**<u>Bottom Line</u>**: Greene has fully embraced Gab for political power and fundraising purposes, bringing mainstream followers onto its extremist platform and mobilizing the extremists already there.

Greene created her Gab account on January 12<sup>th</sup> in the shadow of the Capitol attack. It rapidly gained a significant following of Gab users, demonstrating its political appeal. She promoted her

On Twitter: Greene promoted her Gab account to grow her followers.



account on Twitter in order to encourage her followers to join Gab. After the initial flood of 226.4k followers in less than a month, Marjorie Taylor Greene's Gab following continued to grow by 8% into March.

Greene's Gab account has become a key part of her mobilization effort, including fundraising. As political pressure against her mounted, and ultimately led to her removal from committee assignments, she raised over \$160,000 in one day (February 3<sup>rd</sup>) and over \$100,000 the following day. Her Gab account was a key part of this mobilization effort and she posted a "thank you" on Gab to her followers that was reposted over 2,000 times and liked over 15,000 times.

#### On Gab: Greene used her account to fundraise.

Marjorie Greene 🥑 @RealMa	arjorieGreene	
I can't thank you all enough for the ou	tpouring of support I'v	e received today.
We've raised over \$160,000 to send a	message to the Democ	rat mob:
It's People over politicians.		
I'm so honored to represent you, Ame	rica First Patriots, in Co	ngress.
THANK YOU!		
15,289 likes 934 comments 2,081 reposts		
🖒 Like 📮 Comment	C Repost	99 Quote

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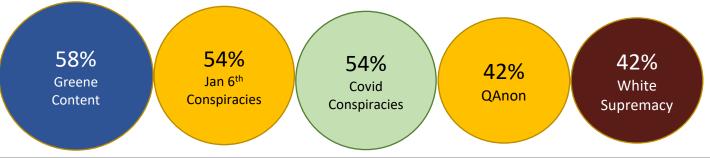


#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE CULTIVATES, MOBILIZES, & INSPIRES HER EXTREMIST SUPPORTERS ONLINE, REWARDING HER WITH MORE POWER

We analyzed content openly posted to Gab by 100 randomly selected Gab supporters (i.e. followers) of Marjorie Taylor Greene. These supporters, who have recently engaged with her posted content, frequently post and/or share content that promotes white supremacy.

Many of Greene's Gab followers also promote conspiracy theories about the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack. Posts inciting violence and insurrection are far too common.

Percent of Greene's Gab followers who post or share extremist views and pro-Greene content.

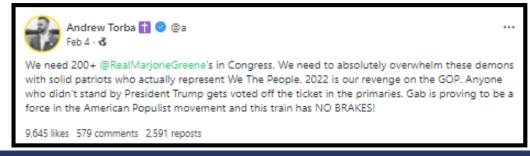


**Bottom Line:** Greene is fully aware of her supporters' extremist views on Gab, who relish her voice.

Greene gaslighting on Gab by claiming that mainstream media is "addicting our nation to hate."



Targeting Republicans: Gab's founder wants Greene & Gab to take over the GOP.



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S SUPPORT ON GAB IS SATURATED WITH NEO-NAZIS, WHITE SUPREMACISTS & FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISTS

A significant number of Marjorie Taylor Greene's supporters are openly engaged in posting and/or sharing content promoting white supremacy, some are neo-Nazis openly posting Swastikas and other Nazi symbols in their posts and on their profiles.

<section-header>

Given Gab's courting of white supremacists and neo-Nazis who have been deplatformed from mainstream social media sites, their presence on Gab is both unsurprising and disturbing.

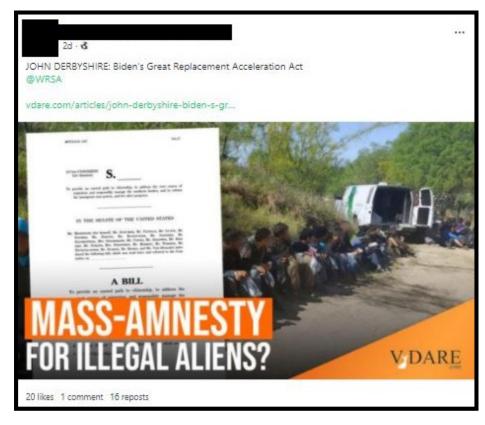
However, it is deeply troubling that Greene, a sitting Member of Congress, would choose to use such a platform to build a political base, demonstrating that she knowingly cultivates and engages with extremists for her political power.

**<u>Bottom Line</u>**: White supremacist rhetoric, symbols, and grievance permeate the posts of Greene's Gab followers, demonstrating her willingness to embrace overtly Antisemitic and extremist supporters.

There are multiple examples of white supremacist posts amongst Greene's followers:

Many shared Gab posts describing crimes against white people, painting them as victims of non-whites. One had a picture of a young girl and a banner "#WHITELIVESMATTER". A post declared March to be "stop blaming white people month." Another said that the government was "openly hostile to white Christians."

Great replacement" and "white genocide" conspiracy theories have also been promoted. These white supremacist conspiracy theories were also found in 2019 Christchurch attackers' terrorist manifesto. A shared Gab post referencing the "great replacement" white supremacist conspiracy and a website linked to white supremacists.



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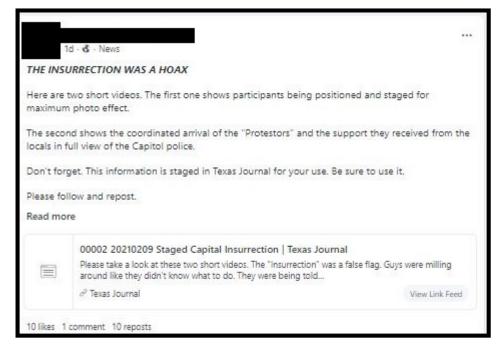


#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S SUPPORTERS DIG IN AND CALL THE JANUARY 6TH INSURECTION A HOAX, TO HER SILENCE

A common theme across the sample of supporters we examined was support for conspiracy theories around the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the Capitol. Many called it a "Hoax" and argued it was staged.

**<u>Bottom Line</u>**: Greene's Gab feed provides a popular platform for Gab users to trade in extremist conspiracy theories. By giving them space to share, she legitimizes their claims to build power.

One Greene supporter wrote, "I never believed this storming of the Capitol and shooting was for real. Floyd all over George again." The post attacks the veracity of not only the deadly events at the Capitol, but those around the death of George Floyd at the hands of police which led to the global surge in support for Black Lives Matter. Links to articles calling the Capitol attack a hoax, including far-right articles from website Gateway Pundit.<sup>1</sup>



#### A post shared by a Greene supporter calls it the "false insurrection lie" and links to a far-right site known for spreading fake news.



Other posts claimed those behind the attack were Democrats or Antifa. Some claimed there was a conspiracy to hide the identities of those involved.

"Democrats confess to staging Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol Attack," claimed one post shared by a Greene supporter.

The approach is reminiscent of Holocaust deniers who seek to deny the atrocities of the Nazis in order to make it easier to repeat them.

<sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.niemanlab.org/2020/10/older-people-and-republicans-are-most-likely-to-share-covid-19-stories-from-fake-news-sites-on-twitter/</u>



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S GAB SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO POST AND SHARE INCITEMENT RHETORIC, POSING MORE DANGER

35% of the Greene supporters we reviewed on Gab either posted or shared content inciting insurrection or violence. Posts of incitement were frequently shared by some of these supporters.

**Bottom Line:** The violent threat to our democracy posed by domestic extremists is real. Greene's Gab platform not only provides a venue for their organization, but also gives her political power. This symbiotic relationship - supporting extremism to obtain power - thrives with Greene.

A Greene supporter: "democrats conspired with foreign agents, lied, cheated and denied due process to Donald Trump" then accuses democrats of "coming for our guns." The post continued, "there will be bloodshed... guerilla warfare... a revolution... they should expect targeted assassinations of leftist leaders." Another post by a Greene supporter said, "If civil war breaks out today I'm ready to fight."

A post shared by a Greene supporter speaks of an "immanent revolution" and calls on law enforcement to "take a stand and to side with the people" against politicians. Another called on the military to act against "tyrannical government, media and corporations" saying "our constitute depends and demands you act now!!!"

A Greene supporter and retired marine wrote, "They rigged and stole an election... Talking only gets you so far. That ends here and right now, time for corrective action!"

#### This Gab post shared by a Greene supporter calls for insurrection, saying "all peaceful and legal options have been exhausted."



22

173 likes 30 comments 69 reposts

This post shared by a Greene supporter on Gab calls for Democrats to be hung.

BREAKING: NYC restaurants will go from 25% capacity to 35% beginning 2/26...now how frigen DUMB is that?? These DemoCRAP politicians should be hung for what they've done to these poor people who've lost everything!

242 likes 41 comments 143 reposts





AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT

#### CHAPTER 1 - TEXT VERSION

# **CAPITOL STORMING**

# NEO-NAZI, QANON & ANTISEMITIC ONLINE CHATTER

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#### **CAPITOL STORMING** NEO-NAZI, QANON & ANTISEMITIC ONLINE CHATTER

The storming of the Capitol on January 6th by militant supporters of President Donald Trump featured several instances of Antisemitic agitation, from an extremist Holocaust denier who helped ransack House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) office to various individuals who displayed far-right and neo-Nazi slogans and symbols.

The Telegram account ZoomerWaffen posted a photograph of the Capitol with a superimposed Jewish star of David. The account name itself is a combination of the popular video conferencing platform Zoom and the Waffen-SS, the "Armed Protective Squadron" of the Nazi Party's paramilitary. The Waffen-SS was heavily involved in the commission of the Holocaust and supplied guards for the concentration camps.

"ReformTheStates" posted an image featuring a silhouette of a person holding up the severed heads of both President Biden and President Trump. The background is made up of repeated text saying "death to the system, there is no political solution". Behind the silhouette's head is the Black Sun ("Schwarze Sonne") a Nazi symbol increasingly used by neo-Nazis as a substitute for the Nazi Swastika. The text accompanying the image attacks President Trump suggesting he is a stooge for Israel. Another message by "ReformTheStates" showed an American flag with the stars replaced by an Israel flag. An imagine of a man dressed in black with a mask hiding all but their eyes and a rocket propelled grenade over their shoulder is standing in front of the flag with a Black Sun symbol behind their head. The post too is calling for armed revolution.

The account uses the antisemitic echo, the triple parenthesis uses by antisemites to indicate a Jew, in the name of the account itself. This account, "Jesus warned us about (((them)))", posted a series of pictures of the Capitol attack the comment "You are next kikes!!!" this was followed by an emoji of a gas pump and the text "Fuck Jew rats. Get out of our country".

Another post features a man at the riot wearing a hoodie that featured a skull with the words "Camp Auschwitz" above it and "Work Brings Freedom" below it. The text below is an English translation of "Arbeit macht frei" which was the text across the top of the entrance gate to Auschwitz. Over 1.1 million men, women and children were killed at Auschwitz.



## **CAPITOL STORMING** SYMBOLS & SLOGANS USED BY NEO-NAZIS & QANON

A photo shows a hand holding a card in front of the camera with the capital in the background. The card reading "NSC-131 2020" is from the Nationalist Social Club a neo-Nazi group with chapters across the United States and a smaller presence in France, Hungary and Germany. The social media post with the card is followed by the caption, "The US Capitol building is now a 131 Zone". The group is know for putting up posters and stickers claiming control of spaces where they have a presence.

Another photo shows the back of a person in a leather jacket. The jacket has a giant Q on it. Above the Q is the text "Anons" and below it "1972".

In telegram the "Only White Lives Matter" account circulated an image of a man looking confused at a piece of paper. The caption read "All the seized government paperwork is in Hebrew?" This promotes the popular farright conspiracy theory of Jewish control of the U.S. Government.

The Telegram account Pax Aryana forwarded a meme from the account EuropaWave which depicted the black sun behind the Capitol building, the words "White Revolution" superimposed on it, and the caption "The only solution...".

In our online monitoring we also observed the following:

- Multiple strong neo-Nazi imagery, including a range of images of the Capitol with a Black Sun behind it, and calls to both "Tear it down" and for a "White Revolution."
- A Celtic neo-Nazi cross flag displayed inside the Capitol.
- People in the Capitol wearing Nazi and neo-Nazi symbols and phrases on their clothing.
- White nationalist groups from across the country glorifying their presence in the Capitol by showing photos of their presence in the Capitol on their Telegram channels.
- Call to action for "Boomers" to arm themselves, saturated with Nazi symbology.
- Efforts to spread fake news slogans to promote the narrative that the Capitol infiltration was a False Flag operation by Antifa.
- In the aftermath of the attack on the Capitol, chatter in unmoderated open-source online channels spiked, publishing alarming antisemitic and anti-Israel content, including death threats, calls for Jews to leave America, and depictions of Jewish symbols and Holocaust-related references.

Bottom Line: Antisemitism was visibly present in the attack on the Capitol. It also has a growing presence in online content which has been shared about the attack.



## CAPITOL STORMING QANON INSURGENCY & CONSPIRACY ON TWITTER

Analysis of over 24,000 right-wing Twitter accounts during January 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> show 6% engaged in insurrectionist discussion and 40% of those were associated with QAnon. Conspiracy theories presenting the Capitol Storming as a false flag operation by ANTIFA / the "Deep State" were common. Many of these accounts have since been suspended by Twitter.

One account tweeted, "Yesterday was an INSIDE job @SpeakerPelosi, we KNOW. Oh, and in case you didn't know, NOTHING will stop what is going to happen next... you and your d.s thugs will look awesome in orange." The reference to an inside job is reminiscent of 9/11 conspiracy theories.

Another account tweeted, "It was Antifa dressed like Trump supporters that stormed the Capitol. Question them. What about Hunter Biden's emails. The Fake Russia hoax on Trump with no EVIDENCE. What about big tech interfering in our elections. Fake news and you democrats started it."

A third account tweeted, "Did someone order a 2<sup>nd</sup> revolution to go brother?" The tweet continues, "Jan 6, 2021 / WWG1WGA!" a call out to QAnon using their slogan "Where We Go 1 We Go All" (WWG1WGA), then adds "Whether we have enough honest people in gvmt to expose the Biden lie or not, we know the truth: we elected Pres Trump to 2<sup>nd</sup> term. We will not allow an enemy occupation of the White House." The message is followed by three fists and three American flags then the Trump slogan "MAGA" (Make America Great Again). This message of the Biden administration being the "enemy" and talk of a "second revolution" is a doubling down on the insurrection of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Other examples of tweets from accounts that are now suspended included:

- "It was a planned false flag and Pelosi and Pence were in on it. Wake up."
- "...We are at RED3. Meaning Pelosi or Pence moved. RED 2 they cut communication then RED 1 they
  will delete Trump's Twitter. It's been told to us before. We know the plan and it's playing out
  perfectly. THE STORM IS ARRIVIN"
- "False Flag underway. Regain Initiative. Far-Near recognition signals. More violence at dark. Reestablish narrative control."
- "This false flag was completely orchestrated! [redacted] and the Patriots are in full control! WWG1WGA"
- "Oh is this not the woman they sent out on a gurney with fake blood? I hope she didn't really die but I truly believe its a hoax. So much of this is a false flag event, staged by Soros. Don't be fooled."

Bottom Line: Following the attack on the Capitol there are efforts to double down and intensify the insurgency as well as misinformation efforts presenting news of the insurgency as "fake news" and the attack as either being a staged event or something that should be blamed on the political left.



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AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT

#### CHAPTER 2 - TEXT VERSION

# **RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS**

WHITE SUPREMACISTS USE HOLOCAUST DENIAL TO RADICALIZE QANON AND MAGA

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#### **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.

A meme from Telegraph highlighting that the reason white supremacists focus on the Holocaust is first to debunk it, and then to repeat it. The meme, which comes from Telegram channel dedicated to Holocaust denial memes, shows a small brain with the text "Study the Holocaust to prove it", a normal brain with the text "Study the Holocaust to debunk it" and a large brain with the text "Study the Holocaust to do better next time."

Another meme from Telegram forwarded by an account called "Sniper Tower" features the Capitol and two Nazi symbols. The first is the Sonnenrad (black sun), an esoteric symbol used by the Nazis, and which since the 1990s is popular with younger neo-Nazis. The second is the Totenkopf, the skull and crossbones device of the Nazi's SS. The text on the image reads "As the empire falls, all it leaves behind, is its own ruins."

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.





#### **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.'

The emerging environment has three distinct groups. The first is QAnon as we know it today, a movement based on conspiracy theories, many of them based on antisemitic origins. The second two are part of a continuum of Holocaust denial. On one extreme is the second group, neo-Nazis and those associated with them, who engage in Holocaust denial as a means of rehabilitating Nazi ideology. On the other extreme pf the Holocaust denial space in this emerging environment are members of QAnon who are discovering Holocaust denial materials and their conspiracy theories which claim the Holocaust or key elements of it did not occur. These QAnon supporters are starting to engage with the Holocaust denial material.

The result is a pipeline to radicalization in which QAnon member on one end are largely disengaged with neo-Nazism. At the other end is a group that have largely left the QAnon ideology and moved into a white supremacist / neo-Nazi ideology instead. This is the end of the pathway to radicalization. In between are those who are still primarily focused on QAnon, but who are increasingly exploring Holocaust denial and other explicitly antisemitic resources. Some of these sources simple reverse the obfuscation introduced by QAnon as it adopted antisemitic conspiracies and re-purposed them.

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





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#### **RADICALIZATION'S EXODUS** AS QANON DEPARTS MAINSTREAM SOCIAL MEDIA, IT'S PULLING SOME TRUMP SUPPORTERS TOWARDS DANGER

Mainstream social media outlets 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.

As we discussed in the previous chapter, we analyzed 24,000+ right wing Twitter accounts and found that 6% of them discussed insurrection. In looking further at that 6%, we found that 40% of those were QAnon accounts while 60% could instead be categorized as more general MAGA accounts.

Building further on this, we saw that four weeks later, 39% of the QAnon Twitter accounts that discussed insurgency were no longer operational. 90% of them had been suspended by Twitter and 10% has been voluntarily closed by their owner. We can compare that to the MAGA accounts were 23% of them were no longer operational. Of the MAGA accounts that are no longer operational, 70% of them were suspended by Twitter and 30% were closed by their owner.

Overall MAGA users are significantly less likely to leave Twitter than QAnon users. While most MAGA users who are leaving Twitter do so due to deplatforming, the number of additional MAGA users leaving voluntarily is far higher than the number of QAnon users laving voluntarily. Voluntary account closures by MAGA users are in fact three times more likely than for QAnon users.

Gab's official account on Twitter put out a tweet saying, "Have you come to Gab, yet? We're waiting for you. We have a place for you. #GetOnGab" is accompanies by an image of a sailor behind a ships wheel with the text "We are the storm. Gab." which plays on one of QAnon's slogans.

A tweet from a QAnon account that signs it's message with the QAnon slogan "WWG1WGA" and three frogs (a reference back to the Alt-Right) reads, "I joined Twitter when General Flynnput out the call for digital soldiers. I have Gab & Parler accounts but will stay here till either I'm kicked off or the (three stars) General give the command to leave."

A Twitter account with the name "We Are the Storm" wrote "Wow... #getOnGab seems to be humming tonight. Hope it keeps up." At the time trending hashtags included #gab, #getongab, #twexit, #leavetwitter, #canceltwitter and #deletetwitter.

A far-right channel on Telegram posted a welcome to "Twitter and Parler refugees" that said, the N word, "Hitler did nothing wrong", "The holocaust [sic] was a lie", "There are no political solutions", "voting will not remove them" and "You all have a lot of catching up to do."

Bottom Line: 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.



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#### **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 as well.

For instance, Twitter backtracked on a claim to have banned Holocaust denial and new Holocaust denial is now tweeted out daily. 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. This content helps funnel additional people to alternative platforms and further radicalization.

Some examples of this content include:

A YouTube video of a 1994 speech by the well-known Holocaust denial David Cole to a conference run by the Institute for Historical Review, one of the primary producers of Holocaust denial. In the video Cole denies the existence of gas chambers at Auschwitz. The video has been on YouTube since 2016.

A Facebook post that says "Trust the science? You mean the MSM cult? Who's pushing false information all the time? The Holocough is the new Holohoax. Expose the Fake news." The post promotes a COVID conspiracy theory which holds that COVID doesn't exist and the global response to the pandemic is based on a lie created by Jews to control global populations. IT also promotes Holocaust denial with its reference to "HoloHoax".

On Twitter there is an account pretending to be Dr Mengele, a notorious Nazi doctor who experiments on children. He used twins to conduct often lethal experiments. The Twitter account writes "#holohoax One Hundred and nine & counting" as it retweets someone else's tweet saying "Everyone knows that for no reason at all Hitler gave a well documented order to spend resources while fighting a war on two fronts to create an elaborate system to kill exactly 6M Jews at only camps the Jewish soviets liberated, and it's illegal in 18 countries to say otherwise".

Beyond the blatant Holocaust denial in the Twitter example, there is also an effort at misinformation to make the Holocaust seem less likely. The number of Jews killed in the Holocaust is not "exactly 6M" as claimed, the figure of 6 million is an estimate by experts. The number is also not, as claimed, limited to those killed in the death camps. It includes all the Jews that were killed by the Nazis. Around 2.7 million Jews were killed across the extermination camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka 2, Belzec, Sobibor, and Chelmno. Others were shot, gassed in wagons, or died in the ghettoes. The distortion seeks to over-simplify the Holocaust to create a strawman version that can then be attacked to "disprove" the Holocaust itself.

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.

Bottom Line: An international response is needed to tackle the domestic terrorist threat posed by online radicalization.





AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SPECIAL REPORT

CHAPTER 3 – TEXT VERSION

# THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS

HOW MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE USES GAB'S ONLINE ANTISEMITIC EXTREMISM TO FUEL HER POLITICAL POWER

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#### THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS WHY WHITE SUPREMACY AND QANON ARE ANTISEMITIC & A THREAT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The American Jewish Congress is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 1918 to advance Jewish interests and rights both at home and abroad. We are deeply concerned about the rise in domestic terrorism in the U.S., including the steep rise of white supremacy and antisemitic extremism.

American Jews are a primary target of white supremacists and the trends are dire. In February 2020, the FBI warned of the "...increasingly lethal threat posed by violent extremism to the Jewish community." Data on domestic extremism from the first eight months of 2020 shows that white supremacists were responsible for 67% of domestic terrorist attacks.

<u>That's why we've written this new special report</u>. It's our third in a series of reports that have focused on the links between online radicalization and domestic terrorism. It explains how these threats have dangerously seeped into the highest levels of our country's leadership and politics, as symbolized by this report's focus: **Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)**.

In the report, we explain how politicians like Greene systematically use social media to engage white supremacists in order to recklessly build their own political power, all the while strengthening white supremacists' impact on American politics. <u>Regrettably, we are now living in a dangerous era of new white supremacist politics.</u>

In their Homeland Threat Assessment in October 2020 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security defined White Supremist Extremist as "A group or individual who facilitates or engages in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and/or their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons."

The QAnon conspiracy movement began in 2017 on the 4chan and 8chan message boards. The poster "Q," believed by supporters to be a high-level government insider, released a serious of cryptic messages they claimed will lead readers to the truth about a plot by the "deep state."

Q's messages reuse proven antisemitic tropes. The deep state conspiracy borrows heavily from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a work of fiction created to blame the Jews for a wide range of ills in society. The protocols are presented as the minutes of a meeting of a secret group that is supposedly in control of the world and which plans disasters that harm people and countries to advance their interests. In QAnon this is presented as the deep state.

QAnon also adopted the far newer "pizzagate" conspiracy, created in 2016, which claims that prominent politicians and members of Hollywood are part of a child trafficking ring. This is where the common QAnon hashtag #SaveTheChildren comes from. In essence, QAnon has integrated pizzagate with an antisemitic twist. It now claims the children are drained of blood, from which the chemical adrenochrome is then extracted and ingested as a drug. This is often described as being part of a satanic ritual.





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This is the new, modern version of the antisemitic blood libel, which spread throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. The earliest of these cases was that of William of Norwich, who died in 1144. He was discovered stabbed to death and the Jewish community was falsely charged with killing him in order to use his blood in Passover rituals. QAnon uses historic church art depicting the blood libel to promote its modern conspiracy theory. In one example, a group on Gab called "Adrenochrome is made out of our babies" uses a well-known picture of the blood libel from the Nuremberg Chronicle, an illustrated encyclopedia from 1493. Claims of blood libel have historically led to pogroms in which Jewish communities were massacred. The modern spread of blood libels is deeply concerning and inherently antisemitic.

<u>Bottom Line:</u> White supremacy and QAnon are both inherently antisemitic ideologies that draw on historic antisemitism, give it renewed energy, incite violence, and put the Jewish community at risk.



34

#### THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE'S HISTORY OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES, FROM ANTISEMITISM TO XENOPHOBIA

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) entered Congress on January 3, 2021. On February 4<sup>th</sup> she was removed on an almost party-line vote from her committee assignments due to her support for hateful and violent conspiracy theories that she still promotes.

Greene ran for election as an open supporter of the QAnon conspiracy theory. After she was elected, it emerged that she had posted her own bizarre conspiracy theory blaming the 2018 California fires on Jewish space lasers and supported conspiracy theories that labelled the tragic school shootings in Sandy Hook and Parkland "false flag" planned events. Soon after the Parkland shooting Greene responded "Exactly!", endorsing a comment on Facebook calling the attack "a false flag planned shooting".

In one online video she engaged in a 9/11 conspiracy, falsely claiming that there is no evidence of a plane crashing into the Pentagon, claimed that President Obama was Muslim, and went further into Islamophobia and white supremacy, by describing the election of Muslims Americans to Congress as "an Islamic invasion of our government."

In June 2020 Marjorie Taylor Greene said in a speech that "The most mistreated group of people in the United States today are white males." In February 2021 Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) said, "We cannot build an equitable, anti-racist society if a Member of Congress endorses white supremacy."

<u>Bottom Line</u>: Greene is an unrepentant conspiracy theorist, whose embrace of this extremism strengthened her candidacy for Congress and actively helps her to maintain political power today.



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#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** "GAB," A GROWING ONLINE HATE MACHINE, IS TURNING POLITICAL EXTREMISTS INTO STARS

Created in 2016, Gab is an alternative social media platform that lacks the boundaries and community standards that are now standard on mainstream social media platforms. Far from banning hate speech, Gab's founder, Andrew Torba, stating on Gab in February 2021 that, "Hate speech isn't real". CNN describes Gab as "an alternative social media network popular with conservatives, the alt-right and some extremists." In function, Gab is a cross between Facebook and Twitter.

Gab has become the central home for Alt-Right adherents and white supremacists who have been driven off the mainstream social media platforms. After the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack, Gab announced it had grown by more than 2.3 million new users in one week. Gab's founder stated that 33 million people visited the site in January. The growth came as mainstream platforms kicked out insurrectionists and the broader QAnon movement.

Antisemitism, Holocaust denial, COVID conspiracy theories and more recently QAnon have found a home on Gab. The content is normalized and spread as Gab allows it to be liked and shared. Gab was also the platform of choice for Robert Bowers, indited for killing 11 people at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018. It was on Gab that he posted "HIAS likes to bring invaders that kill our people. I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in." HIAS is a Jewish American nonprofit organization that has provided humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees since 1881.

An example of the content found on Gab can be seen in a post explicitly promoting a white supremacy blog piece and calling for "unconventional tactics" and "irregular politics," which may well be expressed through domestic terrorism. The post included this quote from the linked webpage: "From the perspective of white popularism, all politics must now be irregular politics as conventional politics has been closed off to us. The Right has to move away from the mindset of the majority to the mindset of the put-upon minority. That means engaging in unconventional tactics. When you cannot participate in conventional politics in order to advance your interests, your choices are clear. You either submit and live the lie that is conventional politics, or you rebel and live outside the lie."

<u>Bottom Line</u>: Gab's unrestricted nature makes it a magnet for haters whose numbers continue to skyrocket, providing an enticing online venue for extremist politicians who want to grow their power.



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S ONLINE PLATFORM OF CHOICE IS "GAB," JUST LIKE IT IS FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF EXTREMISTS

Unlike other Members of Congress, Marjorie Taylor Greene's social media presence extends beyond mainstream platforms and onto Gab and the encrypted message platform Telegram. She has over 243,700 followers on Gab where she created her account in January 2021. Only her political Twitter account has a larger following, with over 374,500 followers, but it was established back in January 2017. Her Facebook campaign page, created in October 2017, by comparison has just 209,300 followers.

Greene created her Gab account on January 12<sup>th</sup> in the shadow of the Capitol attack. It rapidly gained a significant following of Gab users, demonstrating its political appeal. She promoted her account on Twitter in order to encourage her followers to join Gab. After the initial flood of 226.4k followers in less than a month, Marjorie Taylor Greene's Gab following continued to grow by 8% into March.

Greene's Gab account has become a key part of her mobilization effort, including fundraising. As political pressure against her mounted, and ultimately led to her removal from committee assignments, she raised over \$160,000 in one day (February 3<sup>rd</sup>) and over \$100,000 the following day. Her Gab account was a key part of this mobilization effort and she posted a "thank you" on Gab to her followers that was reposted over 2,000 times and liked over 15,000 times.

<u>Bottom Line</u>: Greene has fully embraced Gab for political power and fundraising purposes, bringing mainstream followers onto its extremist platform and mobilizing the extremists already there.



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE CULTIVATES, MOBILIZES, & INSPIRES HER EXTREMIST SUPPORTERS ONLINE, REWARDING HER WITH MORE POWER

We analyzed content openly posted to Gab by 100 randomly selected Gab supporters (i.e. followers) of Marjorie Taylor Greene. These supporters, who have recently engaged with her posted content, frequently post and/or share content that promotes white supremacy.

Many of Greene's Gab followers also promote conspiracy theories about the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack. Posts inciting violence and insurrection are far too common.

58% of those who had interacted with Greene's Gab profile shared her content or posted or shared other positive content about her with their followers. 54% posted or shared conspiracy theories about the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the Capitol. 54% posted or shared conspiracy theories and misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic. 42% posted or shared QAnon related content or content from self-identified QAnon accounts, 42% shared or posted content promoting or supporting white supremacy.

One post by Greene, liked by 10,770 people and shared by a further 2,343, shows Greene gaslighting by claiming that mainstream media is "addicting our nation to hate." The post links to a Breitbart article about a press conference Greene gave.

Greene is not alone in this push. Gab's founder, Andrew Torba, wrote on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, "We need 200+ Marjorie Taylor Greene's in Congress. We need to absolutely overwhelm thee demons with solid patriots who actually represent We The People. 2022 is our revenge on the GOP. Anyone who didn't stand by President Trump gets voted off the ticket in the primaries. Gab is proving to be a force in the American Popularist movement and this train has NO BRAKES!". The post received over 9,600 likes and over 2,500 shares.

<u>Bottom Line:</u> Greene is fully aware of her supporters' extremist views on Gab, who relish her voice.



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S SUPPORT ON GAB IS SATURATED WITH NEO-NAZIS, WHITE SUPREMACISTS & FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISTS

A significant number of Marjorie Taylor Greene's supporters are openly engaged in posting and/or sharing content promoting white supremacy, some are neo-Nazis openly posting Swastikas and other Nazi symbols in their posts and on their profiles.

Given Gab's courting of white supremacists and neo-Nazis who have been deplatformed from mainstream social media sites, their presence on Gab is both unsurprising and disturbing.

However, it is deeply troubling that Greene, a sitting Member of Congress, would choose to use such a platform to build a political base, demonstrating that she knowingly cultivates and engages with extremists for her political power.

There are multiple examples of white supremacist posts amongst Greene's followers:

Many shared Gab posts describing crimes against white people, painting them as victims of nonwhites. One had a picture of a young girl and a banner "#WHITELIVESMATTER". A post declared March to be "stop blaming white people month." Another said that the government was "openly hostile to white Christians." One Greene supporter had a picture at the top of their profile with giant swastikas. Another shared a Gab post referencing the "great replacement" white supremacist conspiracy and linking to an article on VDARE, a website linked to white supremacists.

Great replacement" and "white genocide" conspiracy theories have also been promoted. These white supremacist conspiracy theories were also found in 2019 Christchurch attackers' terrorist manifesto.

<u>Bottom Line</u>: White supremacist rhetoric, symbols, and grievance permeate the posts of Greene's Gab followers, demonstrating her willingness to embrace overtly Antisemitic and extremist supporters.



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#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S SUPPORTERS DIG IN AND CALL THE JANUARY 6TH INSURECTION A HOAX, TO HER SILENCE

A common theme across the sample of supporters we examined was support for conspiracy theories around the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the Capitol. Many called it a "Hoax" and argued it was staged.

One Greene supporter wrote, "I never believed this storming of the Capitol and shooting was for real. George Floyd all over again." The post attacks the veracity of not only the deadly events at the Capitol, but those around the death of George Floyd at the hands of police which led to the global surge in support for Black Lives Matter. A number of Greene supported shared links to articles calling the Capitol attack a hoax, including a range of articles from the far-right website *Gateway Pundit* which is known for spreading fake news.

Other posts claimed those behind the attack were Democrats or Antifa. Some claimed there was a conspiracy to hide the identities of those involved. "Democrats confess to staging Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol Attack," claimed one post shared by a Greene supporter. The approach is reminiscent of Holocaust deniers who seek to deny the atrocities of the Nazis in order to make it easier to repeat them.

<u>Bottom Line:</u> Greene's Gab feed provides a popular platform for Gab users to trade in extremist conspiracy theories. By giving them space to share, she legitimizes their claims to build power.



#### **THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS** GREENE'S GAB SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO POST AND SHARE INCITEMENT RHETORIC, POSING MORE DANGER

35% of the Greene supporters we reviewed on Gab either posted or shared content inciting insurrection or violence. Posts of incitement were frequently shared by some of these supporters.

A Greene supporter posted, "democrats conspired with foreign agents, lied, cheated and denied due process to Donald Trump" then accuses democrats of "coming for our guns." The post continued, "there will be bloodshed… guerilla warfare… a revolution… they should expect targeted assassinations of leftist leaders." Another post by a Greene supporter said, "If civil war breaks out today I'm ready to fight."

Another post shared by a Greene supporter speaks of an "immanent revolution" and calls on law enforcement to "take a stand and to side with the people" against politicians. Another called on the military to act against "tyrannical government, media and corporations" saying "our constitute depends and demands you act now!!!"

One post by a Greene supporter spoke about the limitations on restaurant capacity saying, "DemoCRAP politicians should be hung for what they've done to these poor people who've lost everything!"

A Greene supporter and retired marine wrote, "They rigged and stole an election... Talking only gets you so far. That ends here and right now, time for corrective action!"

<u>Bottom Line</u>: The violent threat to our democracy posed by domestic extremists is real. Greene's Gab platform not only provides a venue for their organization, but also gives her political power. This symbiotic relationship - supporting extremism to obtain power - thrives with Greene

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