THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACIST POLITICS

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

APRIL 2021

This report is part of an American Jewish Congress initiative to combat domestic terrorism, including white supremacy and antisemitic extremism.
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 White Supremist 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 by Jewish persons.” — Homeland Threat Assessment, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Oct. 2020.

Bottom Line: 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.

That’s why we’ve written this new special report. 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. Regrettably, we are now living in a dangerous era of new white supremacist politics.
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 series 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.

Bottom Line: 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.
Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) entered Congress on January 3, 2021. On February 4th 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. 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.”

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

After the January 6th 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.

Bottom Line: 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.

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

Gab’s founder on hate speech.

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Gab</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Telegram</th>
<th>YouTube</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>209.3k</td>
<td>180.2k</td>
<td>162.1k</td>
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<td>4.8k</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bottom Line: 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 12th 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.

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

On Gab: Greene used her account to fundraise.

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 3rd) 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.
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 6th 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.**

- 58% Greene Content
- 54% Jan 6th Conspiracies
- 54% Covid Conspiracies
- 42% QAnon
- 42% White Supremacy

**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.

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.

Bottom Line: 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.
A common theme across the sample of supporters we examined was support for conspiracy theories around the January 6th attack on the Capitol. Many called it a “Hoax” and argued it was staged.

**Bottom Line:** 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. 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. Links to articles calling the Capitol attack a hoax, including articles from far-right website Gateway Pundit.

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 6th 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.

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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.”

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