

Why Kanye's Antisemitism Matters

Read Time: 5 Minutes 32 Seconds

One doesn't just wake up and make a string of anti-Semitic remarks without some deep seeded hatred of Jewish people. The latest example came from none other than the famous entertainer/designer Kanye West (Ye).

His mental illness is not an excuse. Kanye's hateful rants demonstrate a great paradox of anti-Semites throughout history: using a platform of "fame" to make vile statements about Jews, at the same time disproving the anti-Semitic screed that Jews control Hollywood where he's famous. Surely if that were the case, he'd never have been able to make such statements to begin with.

But that's not the only contradiction in Kanye's antisemitism.

One can be forgiven for making an ignorant, hurtful mistake. Yet unfortunately, when called out about it, Kanye became more offensive rather than being humble, contrite or even apologetic. That's as bad as his offensive series of statements because he had the opportunity to do right, but he chose to continue to double-down on the oldest hatred in the world.

One of Kanye's most egregious statements with potential to incite assaults against Jews was his vow to "go death con three ON JEWISH PEOPLE," meaning "DEFCON," the term referring to a high state of alert of the US military. I don't necessarily believe that he's advocating for widespread violence against Jews, another Holocaust, or anything of the sort. But maybe he is. We don't know because he didn't clarify or apologize. And he's simply too ignorant and arrogant to care.

His followers saw no problem to hang banners over a major LA highway, supporting Kanye's anti-Semitic remarks punctuated with a Nazi "heil Hitler" salute.

Kanye's anti-Semitic rants were not limited to threatening violence. He also invoked a variety of demeaning anti-Semitic tropes and stereotypes. Speaking on Tucker Carlson's show, somehow discussion about the Abraham Accords came up, the 2020 agreements between Israel and four Arab countries brokered by the Trump administration. Kanye couldn't resist the opportunity to headline his antisemitism. He said that he "thought" the agreement was motivated by (Trump's Jewish son-in-law's) Jared Kushner's greed. "I just think it was to make money."

After Kanye's "Death con three" comment was deleted by Meta (the parent company of Facebook and Instagram), Kanye invoked the anti-Semitic trope of Jews controlling the media, flipping to Twitter to call out Facebook's Jewish founder Mark Zuckerberg, "Who do you think created cancel culture?" I'm sure that Kanye was not referring to the Jamaican bobsled team.

Before Twitter deleted Kanye's anti-Semitic tweets, he was able to get off a volley of offensive statements, underscoring the idea of Jewish control of the media. "You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda."

In case anyone doubted what Kanye meant, a few days later he used another platform to rant, "Jewish people have owned the Black voice. Whether it's through us wearing a Ralph Lauren shirt, or it's all of us being signed to a record label, or having a Jewish manager, or being signed to a Jewish basketball team, or doing a movie on a Jewish platform like Disney.

"You get used to paparazzi taking a picture of you, and you

don't get money off it. You just get used to being screwed by the Jewish media. The Jewish media blocked me out."

If all this weren't bad enough, Kanye took a low road down a path of nonsensical and offensive historical revisionism. He wrote, "The funny thing is I actually can't be anti-Semitic because black people are actually Jew also." Caught in his crosshairs are not just the undermining of all Jews with an absurd derivative of replacement theology, but also actual black Jews who he mocks and delegitimizes.

He obviously sees no contradiction in blaming the Jews for controlling the media, canceling him and owning the black voice, and in another "thought" says that the Jews aren't really Jews, and its blacks that are Jews. For anti-Semites like Kanye, actual history and facts don't matter.

In a head-spinning comment that initially seemed unrelated, Kanye criticized Planned Parenthood as created "to control the Jew population." While Planned Parenthood has roots in eugenics promoting abortion among African Americans, Kanye used this to confuse and create more anti-Semitic hate. Explaining what he meant, he "clarified," "When I say Jew, I mean the 12 lost tribes of Judah, the blood of Christ, who the people known as the race Black really are."

So, if all black people are actually the real Jews, how can the Jews be controlling the media and silencing him? If he were really Jewish, he might know that Judah is one of the 10 lost tribes. But let's not let facts get in the way of Kanye's Jew-hatred.

Part of the danger of Kanye's comments is that he has more Twitter followers than there are actual Jews in the world at a ratio of about 2:1. The negative influence of his anti-Semitic ignorance is real and borderlines shouting "Jews control the media" in a crowded theater of ignorant people. It can certainly be used to incite violence.

It's true that black slaves in America derived inspiration from the liberation of the Jewish people from Egypt, believing that the God who delivered the Jews from the original slavery would deliver them. It's even true that a fringe group of former slaves began a movement adopting themselves as Jews, as a badge of honor.

To me, as a Jew, that's inspiring. God has used the Jewish people throughout history to show His faithfulness. But that doesn't make people inspired by God's faithfulness to actual Jews, Jews themselves. No more than if Kanye inspired me does it make me black.

As much as facts don't matter, I suspect that science doesn't matter either. But let's be generous with Kanye. Who would like to join me in getting him a DNA test for Christmas to find out if he's really a Jew? Then he can blame the man in the mirror for controlling the media and silencing himself?

Because of his global following, Kanye's anti-Semitic rants have the ability to spill over and adversely impact black-Jewish relations. One positive outcome is the statement of the Black Jewish Entertainment Alliance, "Ye's (Kanye) recent statements about the Jewish community are hurtful, offensive and wrong. They perpetuate stereotypes that have been the basis for discrimination and violence against Jews for thousands of years. Words like this tear at the fabric of the Black-Jewish relationship."

Adidas and others have severed their relationship with Kanye, realizing that he's crossed a line and is no longer the brand with which they want to associate. [You can join the Inspiration from Zion podcast for a detailed conversation about this.](#)

As much as I appreciate various social media sites taking down Kanye's hateful and even dangerous posts, and companies having the moral backbone to disassociate from a person who is so

rabidly anti-Semitic, there's a tremendous paradox that so many others from Islamic Iranian jihadists to radical Palestinian Arab terrorists are allowed freedom to use all the social media platforms not just to incite hate but to organize their hate into actual deadly violence.

If social media is going to "go death con three" on Kanye's antisemitism, maybe they should also have a peek at what's being posted and tweeted in Persian and Arabic.

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