

## American Antisemitism

We explore a resurgence of violence against Jews in the U.S.



By [Jonathan Weisman](#)

I'm an editor based in Chicago and the author of a book about being Jewish in the age of Trump.

Three times in as many months, people who claim to fight for Palestinian rights have attacked Jews on American soil.

Sunday's Molotov cocktail assault in Boulder followed [the killing in May of two young Israeli embassy aides](#) in Washington, D.C., and the [April firebombing of the governor's mansion](#) in Harrisburg, Pa., where Gov. Josh Shapiro and his family were celebrating Passover.

This is what a resurgence of violent antisemitism looks like.

The attacks were also acts of anti-Zionism — a clear response to the war in Gaza. There is a useful distinction between the clear bigotry of Jew hatred and the political and historical debate over Zionism — the support for a Jewish state. But, partly in response to the Oct. 7 war, the categories are collapsing. Salvos against Israel are colliding with longstanding prejudice, sometimes with deadly effect.

Today's newsletter is about that collision.

### The collapse

It is a moment of despair for advocates for Palestinian rights. Many are desperate: More than 50,000 have died in Gaza, and much of the territory has been razed.

The Trump administration appears to believe any defense of Palestinian lives is evidence of Jew hatred. (As my colleague Tyler Pager [put it last night](#), the president has lots to say about antisemitism and little to say about Jews.) It has used pro-Palestinian speech as a pretext for assaults on higher education, science funding, foreign students and immigrants.

But attacks on Jews for the actions of an Israeli government a world away are collective punishment, and collective punishment is bigotry. This was not even a question when Muslims in America were attacked as retribution for the murderous actions of Al Qaeda on 9/11.

What resistance, though, is permissible? For a story I wrote last year about [when garden-variety criticism of Israel spills into antisemitism](#), I had fraught conversations with non-Jews and Jews, many of whom have felt frightened since Oct. 7, 2023. On campus and at protests, they hear the slogan "Globalize the Intifada," for instance. Intifada is the Arabic word for "uprising," and the term used to describe the often violent Palestinian resistance movements of the early 2000s and late 1980s.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Greenblatt, the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, which for a century has been patrolling the dark worlds of bigotry, told me "there is no debate": In his view, opposition to a Jewish State in the land of Jewish ancestry is antisemitism.