

ANTISEMITISM DEFINITION

The word “antisemitism” was coined in 1879 in Germany, in an attempt to define anti-Jewish sentiment on a scientific basis. Unlike the traditional, religiously, and emotionally based hatred of Jews, antisemitism was to justify the rejection of Jews as a different people, nation, and later race, that threatens the mere existence of the national unity and the national state. Gradually antisemitism became a political ideology embraced by political parties and organizations that were determined to protest against the so-called “Jewish influence” in political, social, economic, and cultural life. Today the term “antisemitism” refers to prejudice or discrimination against Jews, based on their religious beliefs and/or on group stereotypes.