

## **LIS 201: Annotated Bibliography**

Plax, M. (2013). On Extremism in our Time. *Society*, 50(2), 196–203. <https://doi-org.lynx.lib.usm.edu/10.1007/s12115-013-9629-1>

The author, a lecturer and adjunct faculty at Cleveland State University, discusses extremism, the collective mindset behind it, and the contributing factors to contemporary fundamentalism. The behavioral science and psychology of a type of group personality disorder and hysteria is outlined and how such concepts are reinforced with works like the *Protocols* or works about the subject matter. Evaluation of a fictitious novel about a counterfeiter who claims to have written the *Protocols* describes how societal reactions could lead to extremism on any side of the spectrum; those hypercritical of the fiction novel, *The Prague Cemetery*. and those who defend the author's possible intent. The author covers present factors that lead many to seek information outside of mainstream sources, such as pharmaceutical psychology and compromised news agendas. The absence of a modest and moderate society unable to understand irony and the dualistic nature of our world is what sustains extremism and perpetuates divided idealism. The requirement of a third party, such as a narrator, to objectify our split personalities is needed collectively and individually to unify our conspiratorial and rational minds.

Whitfield, S. J. (2018). The Persistence of the Protocols. *Society*, 55(5), 417–421. <https://doi-org.lynx.lib.usm.edu/10.1007/s12115-018-0282-6>

This article, written by Emeritus Professor of American Studies at Brandeis University, outlines the contemporary contributions to conspiracy theories that keep extremist and unfounded acceptance of conspiratorial documents' authenticity like the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. This article highlights powerful public figures, specifically George Soros and how their global reputation, financial wealth, and speculative accusations have kept concepts described in the *Protocols* alive and well today. The forgery of the *Protocols* is exhibited and the influence it has had, and continues to have, over current theories perpetuated and supported by some international government officials. The antisemitic promotion of these concepts by groups directly opposed to Jewish beliefs and history is outlined and exemplified by numerous examples. Many past and present names and organizations are mentioned and support the fact that ideas stated in the *Protocols* resist the test of time. The key figures mentioned, and the conspiracies attributed to them, is reflective of the survival of conspiratorial mindsets and their alignments with similar concepts.

Pipes, D. (1992). Plotters. *New Republic*, 207(2), 17.

Daniel Pipes is an author and columnist with over fifty-five years of experience and a PhD from Harvard University in History. Mr. Pipes is a distinguished visiting professor and a renowned historian and Middle East expert. This article outlines how anti-conspiracists become conspirators themselves, such as the Ku Klux Klan. The focus is on

Ross Perot and his potential to lead a counter conspiracy, which is the forerunner for a conspiracy itself. Many other historical organizations are mentioned and how the usage of lies and false narratives aided their cause and perpetrated their agendas. The tactics and characteristics of the conspiratorial plots of many counterinsurgencies often fall victim to becoming the very thing they oppose. Historically, this is factual and is exemplified by the repetition of the same story with different players but under similar social conditions and discourse. The article is a good warning and advisory for similar political candidates to come and points out signs to be aware of when they arrive.

Tobin, J. S. (2011). The Commentary Report on Jewish Life. *Commentary*, 132(1), 4–5.

Written by the current Editor in Chief of Jewish News Syndicate, this article reflects how far and wide the scope of the *Protocols* really is. The direct ties to the antisemitic sentiment expressed in this forgery reached Venezuela, as it was read over a government radio broadcast. The regime of dictator Hugo Chavez promoted zeitgeist beliefs that drove division amongst Venezuela's citizens. This short article exhibits the multitude of leaders who utilize propaganda to achieve their desires. The author specifically focuses on antisemitic rhetoric and its ever-present influence in past and present-day society and global matters. The socialist agenda of the Chavez Party is an example of how far political extremists are willing to go to enforce and impose their political ideology upon the citizens they are sworn to serve. Parties and leaders like this often find ways to make past false information and ideas, such as those in the *Protocols*, relevant and believable in the present.

Zia-Ebrahimi, R. (2018). When the Elders of Zion relocated to Eurabia: conspiratorial racialization in antisemitism and Islamophobia. *Patterns of Prejudice*, 52(4), 314–337. <https://doi-org.lynx.lib.usm.edu/10.1080/0031322X.2018.1493876>

Reza Zia-Ebrahimi is an author and historian at King's College London with works focusing on ethnic studies, contemporary Islamophobia, and antisemitism. The author illustrates the commonalities between the *Protocols* and another document, *Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis*, and the ideological similarities in creating a radicalized perception of particular groups, as in the Jewish and Islamic faiths. The comparison of antisemitism and Islamophobia contrast one another and share underlying thematic concepts, that of 'conspiratorial racialization.' The article aims at the scholarly deconstruction of the *Eurabia* source, which has not been done with the same attention as the *Protocols* has. The structural and formatting differences of the documents are addressed and analyzed but the unifying goal of both is the primary observance acknowledged and elaborated upon. While the primary focus of the article is on *Eurabia*, the synchronistic analogy of the *Protocols* and the comparative tonality of both documents illustrate the underlying narrative that is more generalized but truthful all the same.

Henne, A., & Shere, J. (2022, July 23). *The Protocols, Henry Ford, and the international jew: Season 1, episode 5*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg94uXRNwC4>

This podcast has guest speakers Dr. Pamela Nadell, professor of Jewish history and director of the Jewish Studies Program, and Dr. Lisa Leff, professor of European and Jewish history, from American University. This podcast covers Henry Ford's publication *The International Jew* and the promotion of his antisemitic ideals. The *Protocols* and its history are discussed, where it came from, why it came to be, and why it matters. The guest speakers discuss the historical rise of Christianity and the anti-Judaism ideology that accompanied it while the Roman Catholic Church became the global dominant religion. The European and Western popularity of the *Protocols* spread rapidly decades ago and recent popularity of radicalized concepts like these are traced back through the nations and leaders who helped spread them. Political, economic, and social crisis are the recurring themes in revolutionary times where prejudicial and racist theories like these gain more traction. The history of the U.S. government and American universities participating in antisemitic behavior is surprising and prominent.

Dunlap, D. W. (2016, October 27). *1920-21 | exposing the "protocols" as a fraud*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/28/insider/1920-21-exposing-the-protocols-as-a-fraud.html>

David Dunlap, a retired reporter and publicist of The New York Times and current museum curator, points out contemporary politicians, as in Donald Trump, and their possible alignment with ideals illustrated in the *Protocols*, or at the very least commentary that suggests such an alignment. The article emphasizes how The Times has staunchly disregarded the validity of the claims made in the *Protocols* since the 1920s. The open support of Henry Ford is also outlined and how it took him seven years to retract the publishing of this controversial material. This short article highlights The Times' support of debunking the *Protocols* and how the President at the time of its popularity, William H. Taft, publicly denounced the material as racist and hateful. Without having to publish many words on the topic, this work outlines the key features of the past and present influence a source like the *Protocols* has had and continues to have on society today. Past supporters of such bias rhetoric, like Henry Ford, tarnished their reputation for supporting ideology of this sort and history will always remember their prejudicial and uninvestigated acceptance of such material.

Federal Bureau of Investigations. (2020, August 19). *Protocols of learned elders of zion part 01 of 01*. FBI website. <https://vault.fbi.gov/protocols-of-learned-elders-of-zion/protocols-of-learned-elders-of-zion-part-01-of-01/view>

This collection is of multiple documents scanned and made available by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), on their website vault section, has an original copy of one of the *Protocols* that was in circulation in the early 1900s in the United States. An FBI informant furnished this copy, and it was submitted to FBI Headquarters by the FBI Assistant Director P.E. Foxworth on November 6, 1941. Multiple copies of newspaper articles and letters written to J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI at that time (from 1924 to 1972), are included in these documents. Numerous letters, mostly from anonymous or classified sources, express to Director Hoover their concern with the effect

the *Protocols* would have on individuals or groups reading the material. Aside from an actual version of the material itself, which is edifying to read through for a first-hand account, the testimonies, and concerns from sources at the time is interesting and well documented. The level of involvement and concern with federal law enforcement further conveys the amplitude such ideological documents like the *Protocols* could have on a population.