

COVID-19

AND ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS IN FRANCE

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the globe in countless ways. Economies have suffered, millions of lives have been lost, and issues that were present before March 2020 got worse. Anti-Semitic actions against the French-Jew population had been on a steady rise pre-Covid, but how would a global pandemic affect that rise.

What are the effects that the Coronavirus has brought up the Jewish population in France economically, socially, politically, and what impact did it have on anti-Semitic acts?

Socially the Jewish population has been forced to cease their traditional burial rituals as it's a source for contamination. Washing and preparing a deceased loved one for their final moments is an important part of their culture and the Coronavirus has made it nearly impossible to carry out this practice. As cases go down small funerals are held but the preparing of the body is still not allowed.



The Coronavirus demands flexibility in most if not all aspects of our lives. In France, the Jewish population deals with conspiracy theories alluding that "the Jews" are to blame for the Coronavirus. The protests in France against the government are a spawning ground for anti-Semitic acts to be spoken aloud without repercussions. The people who attend the protests are often also anti-vaccine supporters and right-wing extremists.

"Whoever did this is not worthy of the French republic and will be punished."

French President Emmanuel Macron stated after a number of graves were desecrated in eastern France.

We discovered that despite a global pandemic the rise in anti-semitic acts against the Jewish population did not cease. The impacts of the Coronavirus on the Jewish community were more than others as a result of pre-existing disparities in social views of the Jewish population. As a result the Jewish population not only had to cope with this global pandemic, the uprooting of their cultural traditions, but also the continued harassment from anti-semitic groups online and in public.

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By: Zoe Holmquist, Miles Saunders, and Natalie Hawkins