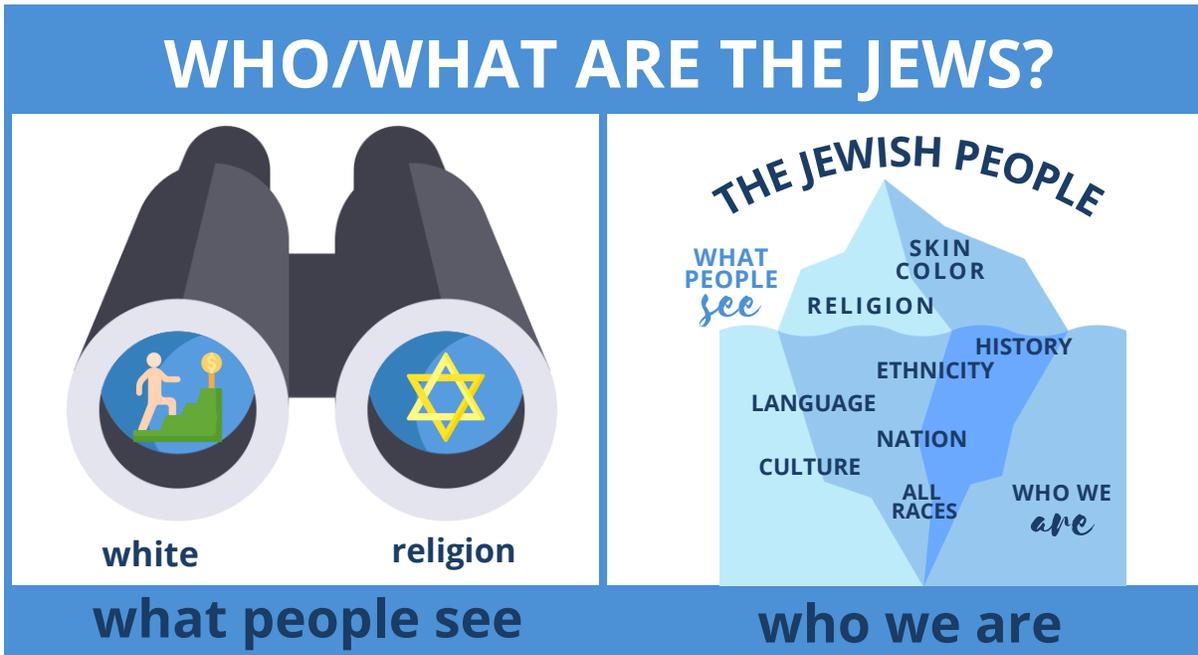


A SIMPLE GUIDE: UNDERSTANDING JEWISH IDENTITY & ANTISEMITISM

Most people don't know **what it means to be a Jew**, **what antisemitism is**, or **how it works**. Fixing these misunderstandings is necessary to help people recognize & combat anti-Jewish ideas & understand why pushing back on antisemitism is so necessary.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A JEW?

- Most people think Jews are a religious community.
- But, Jews have identified as part of a people or an ethnic group, with a collective or national identity, for thousands of years longer than the existence of organized religion.
- Someone could be an atheist & still be Jewish.

**JEWS = A PEOPLE
(NOT JUST A
RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY)**

WHAT IS MODERN ANTISEMITISM

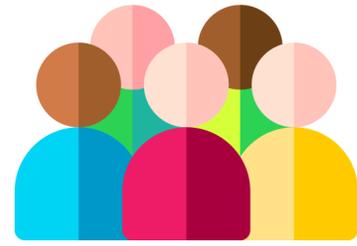
MOST PEOPLE THINK ANTISEMITISM IS ABOUT **RELIGION**



JEWS ARE
TYPICALLY
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FOR WHO WE
ARE.

NOT HOW WE
PRAY.

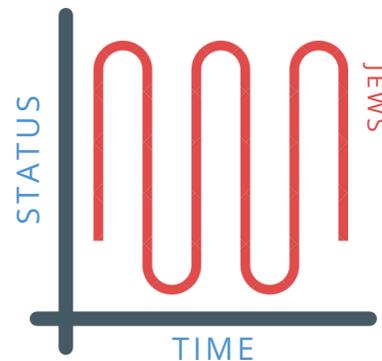
BUT ANTISEMITISM IS ABOUT
PEOPLE



**MODERN
ANTISEMITISM =
ANTI-JEW OR JEW
HATE, NOT ANTI-
JUDAISM**

- Antisemitism usually presents as **anti-Jew or Jew-hate**, not anti-Judaism.
- We aren't often attacked for how we pray but for who we are and what people accuse us of doing or being responsible for (e.g. ills of society).
- When someone attacks Jews at a synagogue, it's usually because the synagogue is an easy place to find & attack Jews.
- When someone attacks an Orthodox Jewish person on the street, it's usually because they're a visible Jew.

HOW DOES ANTISEMITISM WORK?



- Most Americans understand systems of power & oppression as fixed in a society, so it can be hard to imagine a group that some perceive as privileged ending up victims of systemic oppression.
- There are countless examples of Jews living safely & even thriving for a time in a society, only for something to change and for Jews to be violently and systemically attacked, murdered, and/or expelled.
- Throughout Jewish history, skin color & status have not ensured safety.
- This is true in Europe (white-presenting Jews) the Middle East or Asia (brown-presenting Jews), and Africa (black-presenting Jews).

**JEWISH
SAFETY IN A
SOCIETY CAN
CHANGE
RAPIDLY**