

Feminism as a Model for Understanding Fascism

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First, let me say that I will use the word understandable with no moral or ethical value whatsoever. Second, enjoy the article.

When a group remains very influential for a long time, especially if it is a minority of the population, there tends to be resistance.

The German Jews enjoyed a long period of freedom and prosperity from around 1850 until Adolf Hitler's rise to power. A large number of high-ranking soldiers in the First World War were Jewish, including the lieutenant Hugo Gutmann who gave Hitler his Iron Cross for his bravery in the war. According to Nahum Goldmann, a leading Zionist and the founder of the World Jewish Congress, the Jews grew to be very influential between 1870 and 1933. *(One piece of contrary, albeit anecdotal, evidence is the case of Walter Rathenau, for whom it was in 1905 apparently still difficult as a Jew to obtain higher positions of power, such as judgeship; as usual, the sprawling nature of historical evidence makes it hard to find definitive proof of German Jewish influence.)*

The Jewish community made up only 0.75% of the German population, but appears to have been quite influential.

Now, I repeat: **when a group remains influential for a long time, especially if it is a minority, there tends to be resistance.** It is understandable why many Germans disliked the Jews. Hitler and the National Socialists wanted to restore the power balance by excluding Jews from positions of power and preventing them from owning shops. *(They also believed that a conspiracy of Jews and Communists had led to the defeat of Germany and the acceptance of the unfair Versailles treaty,*

but that is firstly unlikely and secondly a topic for another discussion.)

The will then, to re-balance what I call the German influential sphere, becomes even more understandable in light of recent political developments. On March 27, 2015, the Independent published the article “*White men should never hold elected positions in British universities again.*” They later retracted the piece, but nonetheless, this view is not far from the concept of positive discrimination. The idea is that, since white men are over-represented in an elected group, women and people of color should have an unfair advantage in the election. The Independent article goes as far as to advocate the banning of white men.

For one last time, I repeat: **when a group remains influential for a long time, especially if a minority, there tends to be resistance.** And white men aren’t even a minority. How is banning Jews from parliament different from banning white men from student unions?

With these ideas becoming ever more accepted, it is more understandable than ever why Jews were persecuted in Germany. History likes to repeat itself, but for once, it is the present which explains the past.