



The Far-Right Leverages COVID-19 Pandemic to Gain Influence and Encourage Violence

Dr. Liram Koblentz-Stenzler

April 2020





The raging COVID-19 ("**Corona**") pandemic has been leveraged by various elements to promote their agendas. One of the most active of those are far-right activists who preach white supremacy ideology, xenophobia, nationalism, anti-pluralism, anti-globalization and more. The most extreme faction of the above which includes, inter alia, neo-Nazis, calls itself "Acceleration" and believes that the western governments are corrupt and humanity, or at least that part that follows values such globalization, openness and pluralism is destined to extinct, mainly through destabilization of the current order and use of violence. In its stead, a new and pure society will emerge. These ideas have been quoted in manifestos posted by attackers who have perpetrated mass casualties' attacks, such as the New Zealand attacker¹.

These days millions of people are required to practice social distancing which in many cases requires them to stay indoors, sometimes alone; flooded with negative emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, confusion, sometimes even anger. The currently reigning chaos and confusion² **provide a platform for far-right activist to disseminate their message**³. The latter are being disseminated on multiple social media networks from YouTube through Twitter, Facebook, Telegram and even on the dark net. It seems that they treat the Corona pandemic as a gift and an opportunity to capitalize on for the creation of a new world order, per their ideology. An analysis of far-right processes and messages points to several trends as follows:

i. Encouragement of Nationalism and Assigning Blame to Minorities

Nationalism has been on the rise in Europe and the U.S. even before the pandemic. On May 2019, Adama Dieng, the U.N. Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide said that there was a "new kind of far-right nationalism in Europe is reminiscent of the rise of the Nazis to power in the 1930s". The Antisemitism report for 2018 advised that various surveys in different European countries showed that a growing number of the third generation in the world don't feel the need to know and learn recent history. The social and economic crisis in France that led to the Yellow Vests protests

¹ Beauchamp Zack, Accelerationism: the obscure idea inspiring white supremacist killers around the world, November 18 2019, <u>https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/11/11/20882005/accelerationism-white-supremacy-christchurch</u>

² McDonald-Gibson Charlotte ,Right Now, People Are Pretty Fragile.' How Coronavirus Creates the Perfect Breeding Ground for Online Extremism ,**TIME**, March 26th, 2020



enabled Antisemitic and anarchistic elements to incite for violence and voice Antisemitic messages⁴. Even Brexit attests to the strengthening of nationalistic elements in the U.K⁵.

Nationalism has been picking up steam since the beginning of the Corona outbreak. Far-right activists and movements claimed that their ideology that stressed the importance of closing borders and prohibiting immigration has been proven right. As proof they bring national border closures to contend with Corona. For example, a far-right internet forum claimed that "Corona is the best thing that could have happened to the world" because "borders are being closed all over"

Eurovision cancelled - Faggots on suicide watch Anonymous ID:+mhvdvog Wed 18 Mar 20: Quoted By: >>248805410 >>248805584 >>248805623 >>248807521 >>248807690 >>248808163 >>2488101 >>248813275

I'm starting to think Corona might actually be the best thing that could have happened to the world. For burgers et al. that don't know what it is, it's basically a televised pride parade. Borders are getting closed all over the place, homo crap off the telly, is Corona - dare I say - /ourvirus/?

4Chan: Corona is the best thing that could have happened to the world

Populist politicians as well as far-right ones send racist messages. For example, Victor Urban the Hungarian prime minister, told the heads of the EU that there was a connection between the pandemic and illegal because immigrants carried the virus with them. Therefore, per him, he tightened Hungary's border security⁶. Marin Le-Pen, leader of the French far-right, called to close the border with Italy "before it is too late". Swiss right-wing leaders also called for a total border closure⁷.

The U.N. Committee on Trade and Development cautioned that the slow down of global growth rate due to the Corona will eliminate \$1 Tn of the global economy's value⁸. Further, the collapse of local

⁴ Reuters, UN Adviser: The rise of the far-fight in Europe is Similar to the rise of Nazism", Ma'ariv, May 1st, 2019 <u>https://www.maariv.co.il/news/world/Article-696875</u>

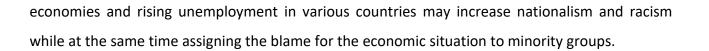
⁵ "The U.K. leaves the EU: Everything you need to know about Brexit", **13news**, January 31st, 2020; <u>https://13news.co.il/item/news/abroad/europe/brexit-996418/</u>

⁶ Orbán to EU Counterparts: Clear Link between Coronavirus and Illegal Migration", **Hungary Today, March** 11 2020, https://hungarytoday.hu/orban-to-eu-counterparts-clear-link-between-coronavirus-and-illegal-migration/

⁷ Avrahami Zeev, "Common virus: this is how the Corona virus shakes the European economy", YNET, February 29th, 2020, https://www.ynet.co.il/economy/article/HyUJ00qHVU

⁸ PTI United Nations, "World economy will go into recession with likely exception of India, China: UN", March 31 2020, <u>https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/world-economy-will-go-into-recession-with-likely-exception-of-india-china-un/article31214695.ece</u>







Corona in your home because anti-white opened the borders (Source: Twitter)

II. Increased Radicalization

Radical elements encourage radicalization. They promote ideology, incite to xenophobia, against their governments and so forth, all to recruit new activists. Online posts show that far-right activists leverage frustration over the pandemic as a means to radicalize political views and revolutionary steps that will hasten the regime change⁹. For example, "you cannot get away from the global bullshit…only death and total destruction can bring an end to globalization….Corona is the hero. Only screams, blood, shooting, flames and the blinding stench of death can remove the ignorance…only a season of death and existence threatening violence will be good enough. China is a good start….I welcome the return of the hard and brutal reality….it is here and now and there's nothing someone can do about it".

⁹ "White Supremacists Respond to Coronavirus With Violent Plots and Online Hate", **ADL**, March 26 2020, <u>https://lasvegas.adl.org/white-supremacists-respond-to-coronavirus-with-violent-plots-and-online-hate/</u>





Anonymous ID:dcXfbagW Fri 14 Feb 2020 17:16:13 No.243767911 📕 Report

We cannot vote our way out of the globalist bullshit. Only death and utter destruction and the breaking of everyone's bullshit easy credit fantasies can end the globalist bullshit.

Corona Chan is the hero we so richly deserve and absolutely need. Only screams, blood, gunfire, flames and the cloying stench of death can remove the kikery and stupidity deep set into nearly everyone. Only a season of death and violence so bad that it threatens extinction will suffice. China's off to a good start, with screaming people dragged off into boxes and dead children being stacked like firewood in body bags.

I welcome the return of harsh and brutal reality. It's here, now, and there ain't a fucking god-damned thing anyone can fucking do about it.

Corona is the hero... (Source: 4Chan)

Posts and messages accusing, on the one hand, Jews, Asians, Muslims and immigrants of spreading the virus and on the other express joy for any minority who dies of it, assist with radicalizing xenophobia¹⁰. "Select" posts: "Muslims in every country started the spreading the Corona", "even though Asians and blacks are the ones spitting and coughing, they are not being accused of spreading the virus but rather the whites"



Left: Muslims started the Corona jihad (Source: Twitter); Right: Whites are being accused of spreading Corona

(Source: Telegram)



NYPD ravaged by Corona – SEEYA NIGGER (Source: Telegram)



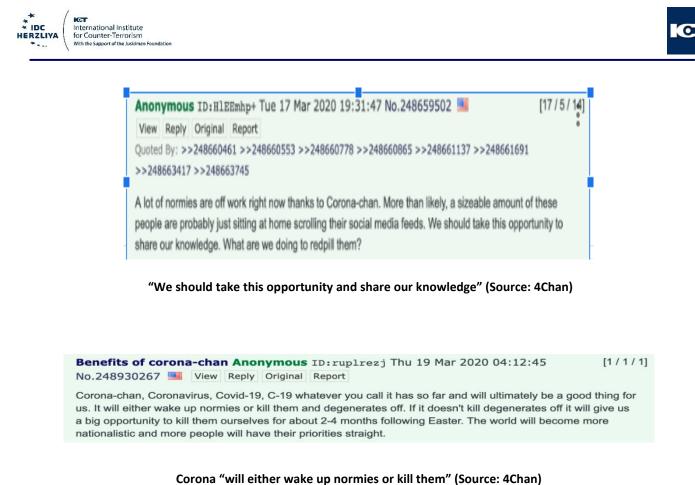
Far-right movements are also using conspiracy theories accusing the government of spreading the pandemic to promote their agenda.



Upper screenshot: Corona is a government tactic to gain control (Source: Darknet) Lower screenshot: Corona didn't appear naturally; the police is using it to arrest celebrities (Source: Darknet)

It should be noted, Stay-at-Home orders issued by governments increases the use and exposure to online platforms and social media. For example, in Seattle it was reported that the use of internet has grown by 40% since the Stay-at-Home order was issued. In Italy that metric grew by 30%¹¹. Farright activists leverage this forced enclosure to disseminate propaganda and recruit new activists¹². For example, one of the far-right platforms the following was written that due to the Corona people are sitting at home surfing social media. "We should take this opportunity and share our knowledge".

¹¹ Burgess Matt ,No, coronavirus isn't going to break the internet ,**WIRED,** March 21st, 2020, <u>https://www.wired.co.uk/article/coronavirus-internet-speed-shut-down</u>



One of the methods the far-right uses to disseminate their propaganda is by publishing viewing recommendations for radical and neo-Nazi content



Viewing recommendations for neo-Nazi content (Source: Telegram)

The obvious synergy between staying idly at home and its accompanied "cabin fever" and radicalization and the wishes to act is clear from the following post. In it the writer claims that he was abandoned long ago by society and now that he had had a chance to sit home and think he





realized that he has a weapon on his hands – Corona. He decided to use it (by coughing and infecting people) to increase suffering in the world so that he would not suffer alone.

They Left Me Alone For 10 Years Now They Must Suffer Anonymous 03/27/20(Fri)22:14:05 No. 57359689 10 years! everyone was perfectly fine with me rotting in my bedroom. society as a whole did not give a single fuck about me. while they were out partying, meeting friends and making new experiences, i was laying on my bed staring at the ceiling. did you know ive only been hugged twice in my entire life? what sort of society would do that to a person? well, once i realized what everyone did to me, i started to think and think, and then it happened. i came down with corona virus. it was like a total epiphany, the lords work. i was given a weapon, something i could use to equalize the suffering in this world. no longer did i have to suffer alone. what a gift. i have been coofing on everything. these self indulgent normies are still out there partying and having fun, and now they will be infected, starting a chain reaction which infects normies and they too will infect normies. robots, gentleman, we no longer have to walk this path alone. the society that held us in utter contempt, that has used and abused us for countless years, that has forced misery upon us for its own pleasure, is coming to an end.

the chad and roastie show is over. soon, we will take centre stage with our fellow brothers. the time is now.

"I was given a weapon, something I could use to equalize the suffering in this world" (Source: 4Chan)

III. The Corona is a Divine Punishment for Society's Sins

Much like jihadi organizations such as ISIS, that interpret the pandemic as a divine intervention to punish the infidels¹³, one can identify a similar concept within far-right circles. Per them, the punishment is imposed on humanity as a whole and they embrace it because this is the price we must pay to fix for the current world disorder – democratic values prevail and minorities like Jews and Blacks live freely in the world. The world has turned its back on god and listens to atheists, which is manifested via abominations such as abortions, killing of white people and phenomena like drag queens.

Anonymous (ID: ocPUfi+Q) 03/16/20(Mon)18:52:38 No. 248466272

>>248451093

The corona virus is a biblical reference to the corona (corona spinea crown of thorns) which is punishment for sin. Painting attached from 1987

Corona is a biblical term (Corona spinea crown of thorns). It is a punishment for sins (Source: 4Chan)

¹³ Barak, Michael, The Corona Pandemic: An Opportunity for ISIS, ICT, March 29th, 2020, <u>https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2524/COVID19_ISIS#gsc.tab=0</u>



Anonymous ID:dH+1Rxiz Tue 28 Jan 2020 11:27:26 No.241268722 Uiew Reply Original Report Quoted By: >>241268856 >>241268958 >>241269115 >>241269439 >>241269610

Coronavirus is God's divine punishment. This is exactly what we all deserve for turning our backs on God and listening to losers like The Amazing Atheist because he was seen as edgy ten years ago. Now we are paying the price. Drag Queen Story Hour. White genocide. LGBT propaganda in film and at schools. Women happily having abortions as everything that can move screws them seven ways to Sunday. How did we get like this? We turned our backs on God. I personally welcome God's punishment.

Corona is a punishment from god. We deserve it for turning our backs on god. LGBT propaganda in schools, abortions, drag queens... (Source: 4Chan)



Upper screenshot: Corona is a divine punishment for letting gays, Jews, blacks live free in the world god gifted to us (Source: 4Chan)

Lower screenshot: Corona is a divine punishment for accepting Judaism and democratic values (Source: 4Chan)

IV. Corona as an Opportunity for Far-Right Activists to Perpetrate Terror Attacks

Far-right activists leverage the pandemic and encourage their supporters to perpetrate attacks both in cyber-space and the real world. On March 23rd, 2020, the NYC branch of the FBI issued a warning saying that radical racist movements encourage activists who have contracted Corona to infect Jews





and law enforcement officers, by touch sneezing and coughing¹⁴. On March 24th, 2020, the DHS distributed a nation-wide memo to all law enforcement agencies cautioning them from white supremacists who may leverage the pandemic to attack critical infrastructure and minority places of worship¹⁵. In cyber-space there is a barrage of messages calling all far-right supporters to use the opportunity to topple regimes that have been weakened by the pandemic and do so by mass infection of people that will lead to a collapse of global economy as

well actively infecting people in places that are symbols of the regime (e.g. DC, Wall St.) and mass infection of minorities wherever they are¹⁶.

Anonymous (ID: bx36m8jR) 03/31/20(Tue)00:30:10 No. 251105973 >

>>251098851

Fuck ALL of that. I want it to get WORSE. I want it to suck MORE. I want this entire decadent, hedonistic, corrupt, polluted system to collapse.

Thank you Corona-Chan. Thank you. Please, Madame Corona, go visit Wall St, Hollywood, and Washington DC, and make it an extended stay, and be sure to see the many wonderful synagogues and mosques in those areas.

Our current Jew owned civilization is the nicest house of cards in history... until the wind blows...

Anonymous (ID: Qx8HgxOT) 03/25/20(Wed)12:09:20 No. 250107960

How can any of you want the **Corona** Virus pandemic to stop?

Because as soon as they find a cure and stop it its back to business as usual.

>Fuck white people

>Destroy white history

>Genocide whites in their own country

How could any white in today's world not pray to god that this disease brings western governments to their knees?

Whites NEED this virus, they have lost the capability to protect themselves against foreign invaders.

This may be our last chance to strike anti-white governments while they are weak. I hope pro-white groups are going to use this situation to their advantage.

Upper screenshot: a wish that Corona will visit Wall St., DC, Hollywood, synagogues and mosques (Source: 4Chan)

Lower screenshot: the pandemic may be the last chance to strike anti-white regimes while they are weak (Source:

4Chan)

¹⁵ Mallin Alexander and Josh Margolin, "Homeland Security warns terrorists may exploit COVID-19 pandemic", **ABC NEWS**, March 24 2020, <u>https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/homeland-security-warns-terrorists-exploit-covid-19-pandemic/story?id=69770582</u>

¹⁴ Margolin Josh, "White supremacists encouraging their members to spread coronavirus to cops, Jews, FBI says", ABC NEWS, March 23 2020, <u>https://abcnews.go.com/US/white-supremacists-encouraging-members-spread-coronavirus-cops-jews/story?id=69737522</u>

¹⁶ On occasion these kinds of attacks may be referred to as "lone wolf" or Bio-Acceleration attacks.





★ National Accelerationist Revival Forwarded from Skorge's Mount'o'Sermons[™] (Deleted Account) It would be really unfortunate if such a hypothetical "28 year old lone wolf domestic terrorist" were to use exports to a hypothetical country with high population density and a large but unstable economy like China as a vessel for some sort of virus to expedite worldwide economic collapse or something crazy like that *cough cough*

A call for lone wolves to infect people with high population concentration like china to hasten the collapse of global

economy (Source: Telegram)

Anonymous (ID: xndHMB+0) 03/05/20(Thu)13:51:13 No. 246632317

I think I have corona. Going to my local mosque to infect some muzzies

Anonymous (ID: 2mb245HB)) 03/18/20(Wed)22:32:12 No. 248879198 >
>248842919
>Be me
>Zcomer
>Male
>Z1
>Non-smoker and non-vaper
>Healthy
>Spent last 4 weeks alone in an apartment
>Apartment is in a neighbourhood with mostly black boomers (biggest group of people but not a majority and surprisingly no young blacks)
If I get corona-chan I'm going full Bio-Accelerationist on these boomers and there is nothing that can stop me.

Anonymous (ID: Mqql3UkU) 03/26/20(Thu)19:23:40 No. 250350444

>>250349041 Corona-chan is an ultimate weapon to kill non-white subhuman!! I love Corona-chan

Upper screenshot: writer going to mosques to infect with Corona (Source: 4Chan) Middle screenshot: "if I get Corona-chan I'm going full bio-Accelerationist" Source: 4Chan) Lower screenshot: Corona is the ultimate weapon against non-white sub-humans (Source: 4Chan)

In addition to perpetrating physical attacks far-right movements are leveraging cyber-space, mainly Zoom, that has become millions' communications application of choice to perpetrate **Zoombombing**, (i.e. breaking into discussions and presenting inappropriate and offensive content, including anti-Semitic and racist slurs), putting fear in organizations, worship centers and minority





schools¹⁷. For example, a white supremacy activist obtained the zoom login credentials for a Zoom conference call of Jewish students in Massachusetts, broke in and exposed a swastika tattoo on his chest. In another case, during a Torah lesson conducted via Zoom one of the participants presented as a background a photo of a boy holding Hitler's Mein Kampf in his hand and shouted that Hitler didn't do anything wrong while people in the background shouted heil Hitler.

As the phenomenon expanded cyber security experts as well as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recommendations for safe use of Zoom which included: not sharing participants' screens only the host's; allowing a person into a conference only by using a password and generating a new password for each session; blocking entering the chat before the host; "muting" participants and more¹⁸.

File (hide): 919fbb1d9c31107....pdf (146.47 KB, Corona, Virus, Tele, Conferen......pdf) (h) (u)



→ JEWISH SCHOOL ZOOM LEAKED Anonymous 03/31/20 (Tue) 16:46:17 ID: 995484 No.87856 [Watch Thread] [Show All Posts] Prepare Men Tornorrow is a big day

All Times are in EST time and remember this is a Jewish school so try to freak them out.

AM 9:00 – 9:30 Rabbi Nacum Brand AM 9:35 – 10:05 Mrs Besie Katz AM 11:20 – PM 12:25 – Mr. William Gaines 12:30 – 1:00 Mr. John Ryan

Leaking details of a Jewish school Zoom call to frighten attendees (Darknet)

Similar vulnerabilities have been identified with Facebook. Facebook notified that like other organizations they were short staffed because of the pandemic therefore their response time to block inappropriate content has been extended. Far-right activists capitalized on that and have been calling for mass dissemination of their content on Facebook.

¹⁷ Nahmias Omri, 'Zoombombing' exposes Jewish online gatherings to antisemitism, April 1 2020, **The Jerusalem Post**, <u>https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Zoombombing-exposes-Jewish-online-gatherings-to-antisemitism-623143</u>; Lorenz Taylor, Zoombombing': "When Video Conferences Go Wrong", **The New York Times**, March 20 2020, <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/style/zoombombing-zoom-trolling.html</u>; Lorenz Taylor and Griffith Erin and Isaac Mike, We Live in Zoom Now, **The New York Times**, March 17 2020, <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/style/zoom-parties-coronavirus-memes.html</u>

¹⁸ Nahmias Omri, 'Zoombombing' exposes Jewish online gatherings to antisemitism, April 1 2020, The Jerusalem Post, <u>https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Zoombombing-exposes-Jewish-online-gatherings-to-antisemitism-623143;</u> Constine Josh, Beware of 'ZoomBombing': screensharing filth to video calls, March 18 2020, <u>https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/17/zoombombing/</u>





We couldn't prioritise your report Tuesday, 31 March 2020 at 01:18 Like many people and organisations around the world, Facebook is affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We have fewer people available to review reports right now. We want to make sure that we can still review and remove the most harmful content as soon as possible, so we're prioritising what our team reviews. We aren't able to prioritise all reports for review by our team. We realise that this could be disappointing, but we want to reassure you that we do have technology in place that takes down certain content on Facebook that goes against our Community Standards. We'll use your report to improve that technology. Finally, we want to make sure that you know that there are other steps you can take if you find something offensive or upsetting on Facebook:

- Hide the content
- Unfollow the person or PageBlock the person or Page

Facebook's notification (Source: 4Chan)

HAPPENING: FACEBOOK UNABLE TO CENSOR DUE TO FU MANCHU FEVER >NOT A DRILL LOAD UP YOUR REDPILLS AND MEMES BOYOS >FACEBOOK DOESNT HAVE THE MANPOWER TO MASS CENSOR LET THE RIGHT WING BOOMERS KNOW AND GET THIS SICK WORLD WOKE!!

A call for white supremacists to disseminate content on Facebook (Source: 4Chan)

In addition to immediate attacks to infect people it seems that far-right movements will use the Corona virus as a bioweapon. For example, one of the posts suggested that Corona patients would freeze their bodily fluids at -20 degrees Celsius and release it at the time and place of their choice to start a new pandemic

Anonymous (ID: QeBsiXFj) 03/27/20(Fri)23:57:03 No. 250578583 🕨
>>250578167 >steal a nuke Why if you catch the coof you have personal access to your own biological weapon. Hypothetically once could freeze bodily fluids at -20C and the virus would remain stable. Then, hypothetically, you could release it in China or anywhere else and kick start a new Corona-chan world tour. I mean I wouldn't never do that but one could. FBI if you are reading this I rather shill for you so why don't you hire me? I need money

Using Corona virus as a weapon (Source: 4Chan)





In summation, a review of far-right content online shows that far-right activists regard the Corona virus as godsend. They regard it is a divine punishment for turning people backs on god. Per them, the virus will assist in exterminating the world as we know it and enable the formation of a replacement society based on nationalistic and xenophobic values. That said, two major trends in leveraging the Corona by far-right activists have been identified: (i) leveraging the fact that people are ordered to stay at home and suffer from "cabin fever" to deepen their influence, encourage radicalization and recruit new activists; (ii) leveraging the virus to encourage violence by attacking symbols of government and minorities (in their places of worship and elsewhere). These are being carried out in cyber-space, inter alia by Zoombombing and leveraging Facebook's delayed timeline in blocking inappropriate content. Finally, one can expect that going forward the far-right will attempt to build an infrastructure for future bio terroristic attacks by preserving the virus and releasing it to start a new pandemic at the time and place of their choice.

ABOUT THE ICT

Founded in 1996, the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is one of the leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism in the world, facilitating international cooperation in the global struggle against terrorism. ICT is an independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis and national security and defense policy. ICT is a non-profit organization located at the

Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya, Israel which relies exclusively on private donations and revenue from events, projects and programs.