



# Infected by Hate: Far-Right Attempts to Leverage Anti-Vaccine Sentiment

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## Synopsis

The purpose of this article is to alert and educate on a new phenomenon that first appeared worldwide in November 2020, as countries started developing COVID-19 vaccination plans. Far-right extremists, white supremacists in particular, identified pre-existing concerns in the general public regarding the potential vaccines' effectiveness, safety, and purpose. In an effort to leverage these concerns, the far-right actors have engaged in a targeted campaign to introduce and amplify disinformation about the potential COVID-19 vaccines via online platforms. These campaigns have utilized five main themes. First, content increasing chaos and promoting accelerationism. Second, content to improve recruitment and radicalization. Third, content connecting COVID-19 or the proposed vaccines to pre-existing conspiracies in the movement. Fourth, content fostering anti-minority sentiment. Fifth, they have begun producing content advocating individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks against COVID-19 manufacturers.

Authorities must be cognizant of this phenomenon and think of ways to prevent it. Failure to recognize and appropriately respond may result in increased recruitment and mobilization within the far-right movement. Similarly, failure to curtail this type of rhetoric will likely increase the public's hesitancy to go and be vaccinated, increasing the difficulty of eradicating COVID-19. Additionally, far-right extremists are likely to continue suggesting that COVID-19 vaccines are part of a larger conspiracy in order to persuade potential supporters to engage in individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks. As a result, COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and distribution venues are likely to be potential targets.

## Introduction

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, millions of people have been required to practice social distancing. In many cases, these individuals have remained indoors, sometimes alone; flooded with negative emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, confusion, sometimes even anger. Far-right activists (predominantly white nationalists) have viewed this as an opportunity to spread their message and cause unrest.<sup>1</sup> Throughout this period, far-right extremists have disseminated content on multiple social media networks, including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Telegram, and the darknet. Monitoring social media and encrypted darknet forums used by the far-right has identified several trends related to COVID-19 and potential vaccines. Such trends have included encouragement of nationalism, assigning blame to minorities, increased radicalization, seeing the corona as an opportunity to perpetrate terror attacks, and more.<sup>2</sup> Continued monitoring of these

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<sup>1</sup> McDonald-Gibson Charlotte, 'Right Now, People Are Pretty Fragile.' How Coronavirus Creates the Perfect Breeding Ground for Online Extremism, TIME, March 26th, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Liram Stenzler-Koblentz, "The Far-Right Leverages COVID-19 Pandemic to Gain Influence and Encourage Violence" (International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, April 30, 2020), <https://www.ict.org.il/images/Far%20Right%20Leverages%20COVID-19%2028-04-2020.pdf>.

channels revealed a new trend that started in November 2020 as countries worldwide began to implement COVID-19 vaccination plans. At that time, far-right activists identified pre-existing concerns in the general public regarding the potential vaccines' effectiveness, safety, and purpose. After identifying these concerns, far-right actors engaged in a targeted campaign to introduce and amplify disinformation about the potential COVID-19 vaccines via online platforms. **To reach a large audience, far-right actors seem to be developing content under five primary themes: (i) content increasing chaos and even accelerationism; (ii) content for improving recruitment and radicalization; (iii) content connecting COVID-19 or the proposed vaccines to pre-existing conspiracies in the movement; (iv) content fostering anti-minority sentiment; (v) content leveraging anti-vaccine conspiracies to encourage individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks.**

In early February 2021, the President of the United States, Joe Biden, announced that the US had finalized an order for another 200 million doses of coronavirus vaccine.<sup>3</sup> That announcement has pushed far-right extremists to increase their efforts using cyberspace to spread propaganda against the government and minorities and push people toward radicalization.

#### i. Increasing Chaos and Accelerationism

Accelerationism is an inherently violent ideology held by some far-right extremists, specifically white-supremacists. The accelerationist movement's foundational belief is that a race war is inevitable and necessary as it will allow the white race to assert its dominance over the "inferior races."<sup>4</sup> Adherents of accelerationism believe that the current societal systems are inherently biased against them. As such, they argue that they must increase chaos and destabilize the existing system of government and societal structure.<sup>5</sup> This view has been heavily articulated online and served as inspiration for individual initiative ("lone wolf") actors such as Brenton Tarrant (the attacker from Christchurch mosque in New Zealand).<sup>6</sup>

Throughout the pandemic, the accelerationist movement has attempted to spread propaganda and exacerbate the existing concerns caused by uncertainty.<sup>7</sup> Now, with the rapid creation, approval, and distribution of multiple COVID-19 vaccines, the movement is trying to capitalize on the underlying concern and distrust of the larger population. From November 2020 to February 2021, far-right content creators posted and shared material questioning the effectiveness and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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<sup>3</sup> News. US orders 200 million more doses of coronavirus vaccine as Joe Biden warns of shortage looming in August. Februar 12 2021. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-12/biden-fauci-coronavirus-vaccine-announcements/13147536>.

<sup>4</sup> Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, Samuel Hodgson, and Colin P. Clarke, "The Growing Threat Posed by Accelerationism and Accelerationist Groups Worldwide," Foreign Policy Research Institute, April 24, 2020, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/04/the-growing-threat-posed-by-accelerationism-and-accelerationist-groups-worldwide/>.

<sup>5</sup> "White Supremacists Embrace 'Accelerationism,'" Anti-Defamation League, April 16, 2019, <https://www.adl.org/blog/white-supremacists-embrace-accelerationism>.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel L. Byman, "Riots, White Supremacy, and Accelerationism," Brookings (The Brookings Institution, November 10, 2020), <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/06/02/riots-white-supremacy-and-accelerationism/>.

<sup>7</sup> Ben Makuch, "Experts Say Neo-Nazi 'Accelerationists' Discuss Taking Advantage of Coronavirus Crisis," VICE (VICE Media Group, March 18, 2020), <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkewgv/experts-say-neo-nazi-accelerationists-discuss-taking-advantage-of-coronavirus-crisis>.

This isn't a request, this is a direct order 🤨 You need to be sharing these news items with everyone you know to warn them about the dangerous risks of these experimental COVID-19 vaccines 💉

**Telegram post with an attached news article claiming that the COVID-19 vaccine is dangerous (Telegram, 18 December 2020)**

While continuing to post content questioning the legitimacy of the potential vaccines, far-right social media users also discussed how fear of the vaccine helps forward the accelerationist movement and supports the white race in destabilizing the existing social and governmental systems. Many far-right extremists believe COVID-19 and a hypothetical vaccine mandate would be beneficial because it would force “all the normal whites” to feel disenfranchised and, as a result, identify with the accelerationist cause.

Don't believe the hype that the vaccine is popular besides among libtards. Most Whites especially on the right are either hesitant or saying hell no. The more people resisting, essentially the more enemies the system has to force its will on, the better for our own agenda 🇺🇸

**Post explaining the belief among far-right actors that more individuals refusing to take the vaccine is “better for [their] agenda (Telegram, 8 December 2020)**

Democrats doxed, threatened, and cheated their way into power 🇺🇸 Whites must take this lesson home 🇺🇸

Nobody is coming to save you ❄️ Have serious talks this Thanksgiving 🇺🇸 Don't let them get the vaccines 💉 Events are accelerating 🔥 The Dark Winter approaches 🌐

**Telegram post stating that “events are accelerating” as a result of COVID-19 and the proposed vaccine (Telegram, 23 November 2020)**

In addition to forcing “normal whites” to recognize their “level of disenfranchisement,” accelerationist supporters also believe that a government-imposed vaccine mandate will ultimately lead to “widespread political violence.”

You see "The Great Reset" Agenda 2030, stolen election, and mandatory vaccines and then you despair 💉

I see ammo shortages, guns flying off the shelves, and widespread political violence and I rejoice 🔥

Napalm SON

Best case scenario for epic lulz Trump gets courts to invalidate the election results by some miracle and uses the military to stay in power 😊

**Telegram post explaining that far-right extremists believe “mandatory vaccines” will lead to “widespread political violence” (Telegram, 19 November 2020)**

For years it's largely only been us proud Whites who have had to suffer injustices by a corrupt anti White system. An unjust occupation government with near total control through the media. Nonstop and casual picking nazis off one by one with zero care from the "muh freedom" right wing. Nationalists never made it past step one. Conservatives were allowed to stay comfortable, until now.

What's so beautiful about 2020 is that the average apathetic normie is finally forced against their will to face hardship. For the first time in their pathetic selfish lives to give a fuck about anything more important than their next hamburger. It's finally their turn to get the boot of the state. They've even come down harder on some naive and stubborn conservatives than us evil White Supremacists.

I could not be happier seeing them feel tyranny like we have for 75 years. 2020 is a net gain for White racialists because now everyone is treated as terribly as we are. It's a win that finally we're not the only ones hurting and being radicalized. All the normal Whites are being brought down to our level of disenfranchisement.

**Telegram post claiming that fears about the COVID-19 vaccine are supporting the accelerationist movement by exposing "normie" people to the injustices of the current system (Telegram, 4 December 2020)**

## ii. Increasing Recruitment and Radicalization

Since early 2020, far-right actors have attempted to exploit fears associated with COVID-19. With the advent of the COVID-19 vaccines in late 2020, far-right actors again increased their efforts to radicalize potential recruits to their cause. Specifically, they have advocated co-opting the anti-vaccine movement to recruit and radicalize potential members. Many far-right actors view the anti-vaccine movement as an ideal target population because of their "potential for extremism against the system." As such, they have argued that the movement will continue to "serve as a vector for [their radicalization] efforts."


 The anti vax movement continues to serve as a vector for our efforts to encourage extremism 🧑🏻♂️🚫💉

**Telegram post explaining that the "anti vax movement" is a target for radicalization and encouraging "extremism" (Telegram, 20 February 2021)**


**Dark Winter Goals** ❄️  
 We must further radicalize the anti vaccine movement. They have the potential for extremism against the system. They're already rioting in the UK of all places 🇬🇧  
  
 We need more them to hear our message that voting will not remove them and there is no political solution. Encourage militancy. The racial angle can be used or it can be avoided for wider reach. Propaganda and memes will be essential for this effort 🧑🏻♂️💉

**Telegram post discussing the importance of radicalizing the anti-vaccine movement because of their "potential for extremism" (Telegram, 8 December 2020)**

One post explicitly explains the far-right rationale for spreading anti-vaccine propaganda. The user argues that by continuing to share such content, far-right actors will be able to “sow distrust in the system to further RADICALIZE rightwingers and especially anti vaxxers.” The user believes that because these populations already feel “threatened,” it will be easier to engage them in the radicalization process.

Why do we have to push anti COVID vaccine propaganda? First of all the fewer people that get the jab, the more force it will require to mandate it 🚫 Secondly, we want to sow distrust in the system to further RADICALIZE rightwingers and especially anti vaxxers that feel increasingly threatened 🔥

**Telegram post explaining the strategy of far-right extremists to “further RADICALIZE rightwingers and especially anti vaxxers” (Telegram, 20 February 2021)**

As this campaign of propaganda and radicalization has continued for several months, far-right actors have repeatedly boasted about its success. Interestingly, they believe that their message is “sweeping the globe.” This belief in their own success will likely encourage far-right actors to continue their efforts.

12:05 PM - Jan 1, 2021 - Twitter Web App  
 150 Retweets · 24 Quote Tweets · 521 Likes  
 Yes, that's because neo nazis are leading the anti vax movement  
 🚫 Our propaganda against these COVID-19 vaccines is sweeping the globe 😊

**Telegram post arguing that the “neo nazis” are succeeding in radicalizing the anti-vaccine movement with their “propaganda against these COVID-19 vaccines” being highly successful (Telegram, 1 January 2021)**

**iii. Connecting COVID-19 Vaccine to Conspiracy Theories**

To assist with their overall recruitment and radicalization efforts, far-right extremists have engaged in a concerted effort to link COVID-19 vaccines to existing white nationalist conspiracy theories. Specifically, the activists have attempted to connect COVID-19 vaccinations to the “Great Reset” conspiracy and the “Great Replacement Theory.”

***The Great Reset***

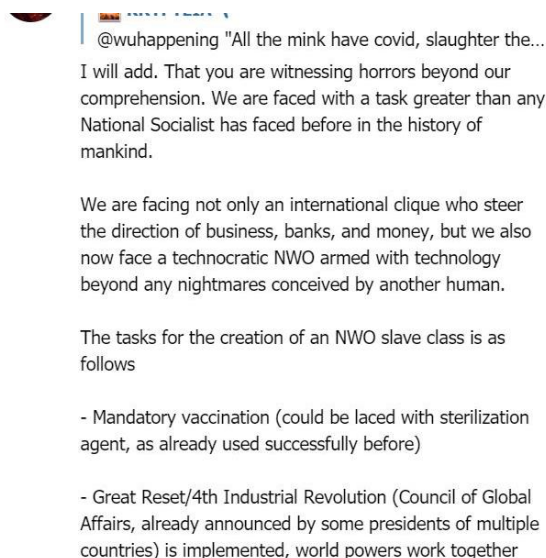
The “Great Reset” is a conspiracy theory suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic was orchestrated by a group of “global elite[s]” to institute radical policies for their benefit; such policies would allow these “elites” to ultimately take control of the global economy.<sup>8</sup> The theory originates from a misunderstanding of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2020 plan titled “The Great Reset.”<sup>9</sup> Although the WEF initiative was a

<sup>8</sup> Quinn Slobodian, “How the ‘Great Reset’ of Capitalism Became an Anti-Lockdown Conspiracy | Quinn Slobodian,” The Guardian (Guardian News and Media, December 4, 2020), <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/04/great-reset-capitalism-became-anti-lockdown-conspiracy>; Goodman Jack and Carmichael. The coronavirus pandemic ‘Great Reset’ theory and a false vaccine claim debunked. BBC NEWS. November 22 2020. The coronavirus pandemic ‘Great Reset’ theory and a false vaccine claim debunked - BBC News.

<sup>9</sup> Jack Goodman and Flora Carmichael, “The Coronavirus Pandemic ‘Great Reset’ Theory and a False Vaccine Claim Debunked,” BBC News (BBC, November 22, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/55017002>.

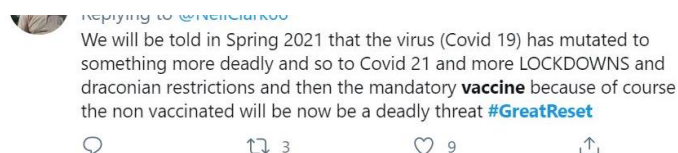


genuine plan for how countries could recover economically after the COVID-19 pandemic, far-right extremists interpreted it as having a much more sinister purpose. With the creation of the COVID-19 vaccine, far-right social networks have devoted substantial content linking the vaccine to the “Great Reset.”



**Telegram post claiming that forced COVID-19 vaccination will lead to the “Great Reset”  
(Telegram, 17 November 2020)**

In addition to generally linking the COVID-19 vaccines to the “Great Reset,” far-right actors have also attempted to suggest that any mutations of COVID-19 are part of the elaborate plot as well. These actors believe that such mutations are a tool to prompt more public lockdowns.



**Tweet suggesting that forced lockdowns and vaccine programs are part of the “Great Reset”  
(Twitter, 22 December 2020)**



**Tweet arguing that the vaccine, lockdowns, and the new strain of COVID-19 are a part of the “Great Reset”  
(Twitter, 20 December 2020)**

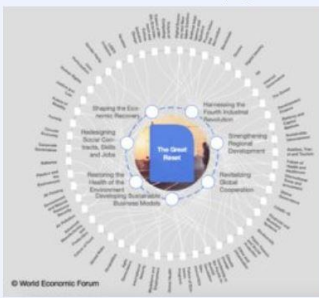
Another common theme associated with the “Great Reset” conspiracy is the suggestion that any COVID-19 vaccine will also implant a microchip or similar electronic device to track all citizens’ movements (ID number, banking information, social security information). Throughout 2020, several politicians and other high-ranking political operatives have posited this theory. For example, Roger Stone, an adviser to former President Trump, stated in April 2020 that “...globalists are definitely using it [COVID-19] for mandatory

vaccinations and microchipping people....”<sup>10</sup> Similarly, the Russian Communist Party leader argued that “globalists” would support microchip implants “...under the pretext of a mandatory vaccination against coronavirus....”<sup>11</sup>

Far-right activists have used similar language in multiple posts online, amplifying this theory. Many users shared content on the clearnet and darknet, suggesting that the COVID-19 vaccine would serve as a tool to implant citizens with a microchip or similar electronic device, allowing the government to track citizens’ movements.

☐ **Anonymous** (ID: [Nt4fmc1](#)) 12/27/20(Sun)18:59:46 No.298811770 ▶ [>>298812030](#) [>>298812080](#) [>>298812760](#) [>>298814236](#)  
[>>298811337 \(OP\)](#)  
 The vaccine is just to test the new mRNA technology and to program people to accept new vaccinations coming every year which will eventually normalize the need to keep track of your vaccinations and allow for people to accept the idea of having microchip implanted for ID/Vaccine/Banking/Social Credit purposes. The corona vaccines are just the first step in the acceleration toward the end state.

#### Post discussing how the COVID-19 vaccine is being used to condition the population to accept microchip implants (4Chan, 27 December 2020)



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☐ ▶ **/tgrg/ - The Great Reset General Anonymous**  
 11/19/20 (Thu) 12:32:10 ID: 7dd698 No.182771 >>182777  
 >>183029 >>183067 >>183071 >>183575 >>185497 >>185501  
 >>185523 [Watch Thread] [Show All Posts]

/tgrg/ - The Great Reset General

>What is the Great Reset?

The Great Reset, also known as "The Great Debt Reset", is a globalist movement founded by Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum. It aims to instill a technocratic society under a one-world government.

>Why should I care?

The Great Reset aims to strip you of all your personal freedoms. You will own nothing. You will rent your car, your home, your clothes, your silverware. Any and all meat (protein) will be restricted to the good goyim (only as an occasional treat!) and the elite. You will live in public housing with strangers. Don't like it? You'll be "quarantined" in a FEMA camp. You'll be sent there and deemed a "severe public health risk", and likely executed. All of your thoughts and dreams will be recorded, making tracking down all dissidents far easier.

>There's no way they can do that!

They can, and they are. It is already underway as we speak. Michigan and other states are going under lockdown for the third time. They will use a "mutation" of COVID-19 named COVID-21 to cause an economic crash, putting millions in debt. The government will allow you to receive total debt relief, at the cost of taking the vaccine and microchip, as well as having all of your belongings seized. This will allow you unrestricted travel across the globe. Those who refuse to take the vaccine will be quarantined in their homes, and once enough people give in, the remaining dissidents will eventually be moved to FEMA camps, with their belongings then being seized anyway.

#### Post explaining their belief that microchips will be used to control the movement and resources of the population under the “Great Reset” (8Kun, 19 November 2020)



Do not let the System vaccinate you. Do not let them chip you.

#### Telegram post suggesting that followers should not accept the COVID-19 vaccine as it will have a microchip (Telegram, 12 May 2020)

<sup>10</sup> Andrew Blake, “Roger Stone Boosts Conspiracy Theory Blaming Bill Gates for Novel Coronavirus,” The Washington Times (The Washington Times, April 14, 2020), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/apr/14/roger-stone-boosts-conspiracy-theory-blaming-bill-/>.

<sup>11</sup> Jack Goodman and Flora Carmichael, “Coronavirus: Bill Gates 'Microchip' Conspiracy Theory and Other Vaccine Claims Fact-Checked,” BBC News (BBC, May 29, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/52847648>.



## Great Replacement Theory

In addition to linking the “Great Reset” conspiracy to the COVID-19 vaccines, far-right users have also attempted to connect the vaccines to the “Great Replacement Theory.” This ethno-nationalistic conspiracy theory suggests that non-white/minority cultures are systematically replacing the “white-race.”<sup>12</sup> The theory was first popularized in 2012 by French author Renaud Camus in his book, “Le Grand Remplacement.”<sup>13</sup> Since its release, the text and associated theory has developed a substantial following in disparate far-right circles worldwide. With the approval of COVID-19 vaccines, far-right actors have attempted to leverage uncertainty and fear to suggest that the vaccine is part of a “Great Replacement” plot to sterilize specific segments of the population. To support their theory, they argue that the “vaccine contains many antigens that demonstrably impact fertility.”



### THE VACCINE WILL STERILIZE WOMEN

Terrifying new discovery confirming possible mass sterilization by the experimental COVID-19 vaccines...

Vaccine contains many antigens that demonstrably impact fertility as well as known carcinogens, developers have many ties to Gates as expected... ..61 in 64 women sterilized...

Whistleblower: COVID Vaccine Causes Sterility in 97% of Women...

**Telegram post claiming that COVID-19 vaccines cause sterilization in women (Telegram, 2 December 2020)**



WOMEN CANT TAKE THE VACCINE! CAUSES 97% STERILITY! See post above  
Gypsycrusader

**Telegram post arguing that COVID-19 vaccines cause sterility in 97% of women (Telegram, 2 December 2020)**

As far-right activists continued to disseminate propaganda suggesting that the vaccines would cause sterilizations, they also began a concerted campaign arguing that the plot targeted the white population. Many extremists began to refer to this as a “white genocide.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Laurretta Charlton, “What Is the Great Replacement?,” The New York Times (The New York Times, August 6, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/06/us/politics/grand-replacement-explainer.html?auth=login-email>.

<sup>13</sup> Azani Eitan et al., “The Far Right – Ideology, Modus Operandi and Development Trend” (International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, September 22, 2020), [https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical\\_Right\\_Ideology#gsc.tab=0](https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical_Right_Ideology#gsc.tab=0), 16.

<sup>14</sup> “White Genocide” is a term heavily used in far-right conspiracies, specifically related to the “Great Replacement Theory.” Adherents of this theory suggest that there is a systematic effort to commit a genocide of the white race, so that people of color and other minority groups can replace them. See Eitan Azani et al., “The Far Right – Ideology, Modus Operandi and Development Trend” (International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, September 22, 2020), [https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical\\_Right\\_Ideology#gsc.tab=0](https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical_Right_Ideology#gsc.tab=0), 15-17; also see Feshami, Kevan A. “Fear of White Genocide: Tracing the History of a Myth from Germany to Charlottesville.” Lapham’s Quarterly, September 6, 2017. <https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/fear-white-genocide>



Forced vaccinations are coming. This vaccine will inject nano bots into your body. It's going to sterilize and genetically alter you. You will be a mutant. You and your offspring will no longer be made in the image of God. Your souls will be irredeemable. Do not take this fucking vaccine. [#WeDoNotConsent](#)

**Telegram post suggesting that the COVID-19 vaccine will cause sterilization through “nano bots,” which will “genetically alter” the body (Telegram, 18 November 2020)**



The COVID-19 is White Genocide mass sterilization 

**Telegram post suggesting that COVID-19 vaccinations are intended for a “White Genocide” (Telegram, 3 December 2020)**

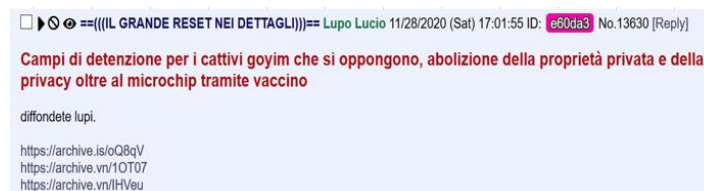
While many of the posts gathered thus far have been shared by far-right activists and organizations based in the United States, this type of rhetoric is spreading globally as well. Text posts shared in German-language far-right message boards, and forums have claimed that the COVID-19 vaccine is part of a Jewish conspiracy to exterminate the German people as revenge for the actions of the Nazis and the Holocaust. Users specifically argued that the Pfizer pharmaceutical company who helped develop one of the COVID-19 vaccines is a “Jewish pharma-company” attempting to “kill the Germans.” Such rhetoric closely aligns with the strategy being used by far-right extremists in the United States who are attempting to connect the COVID-19 vaccines to existing conspiracy theories.



Corona ist die Rache der Juden dafür dass Hitler sie als Feind erkannte und beseitigen wollte! Pfizer ist ein jüdischer Pharmakonzern, das Paul-Ehrlich-Institut wurde von einem Juden gegründet, die Freimaurer werden von Juden kontrolliert, Merkel ist Jüdin, die EZB ist jüdisch! Die Juden wollen die Deutschen töten.

**Post on a far-right German-language message board claiming that COVID-19 is part of a Jewish plot against the Germans as revenge for the actions of the Nazis and the Holocaust (Telegram, 27 February 2021)**

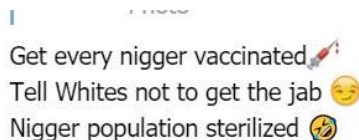
Like German-language message boards, Italian-language far-right forums and channels have also begun to produce content linking the COVID-19 vaccine to conspiracy theories. One post explained how Jewish people would force non-vaccinated people into “detention camps.” Additionally, the user suggests that any COVID-19 vaccine would also implant a “microchip” as part of the “Great Reset” conspiracy theory.



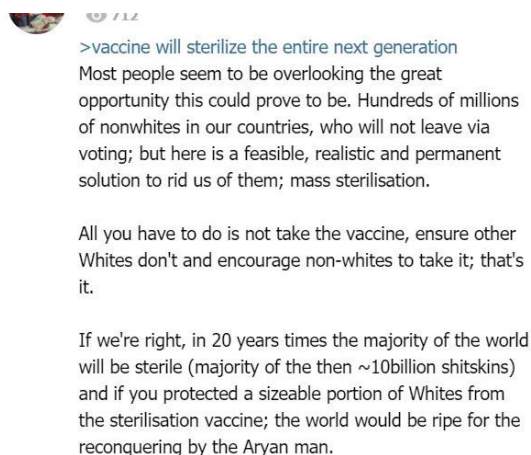
**Post from a far-right Italian-language board claiming that the Jewish people will place anyone who refuses the vaccine into a “detention camp” and implant microchips via the vaccine as part of the “Great Reset” Conspiracy (8Kun, 28 November 2020)**

#### iv. Fostering Anti-Minority Sentiment Related to the COVID-19 Vaccine

Another way far-right extremists are attempting to leverage the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 vaccines is by propagating anti-minority sentiments. Expanding on their belief that the proposed COVID-19 vaccines are harmful and cause mass sterilizations, online extremists have begun a campaign to encourage members of minority communities to take the vaccine. They believe that if minority communities receive the vaccine, while the “white” races do not, the “world would be ripe for the reconquering by the Aryan man.”



**Telegram post suggesting that minority populations should receive the vaccine as it will cause sterilization (Telegram, 10 December 2020)**




**Telegram post explaining how mass vaccinations and sterilizations of minority communities would benefit the “Aryan man” (Telegram, 12 December 2020)**

To further expand their messaging, far-right actors developed a hashtag, connecting their posts to the larger movement: #VaxTheBlacks. In early December 2020, the hashtag #VaxTheBlacks appeared on

numerous white-supremacist Telegram channels, and Twitter feeds. Although far-right actors attempted to suggest that this campaign was for racial equity, the posts' meanings were far more malicious. By February 2021, far-right actors began referring to the hashtag as an organized "campaign."

TRSodomite Eric @Striker16  is demanding the vaccination of Whites because he wants them sterilized, dead, and worse! This nigger lover is directly fighting our #VaxTheBlacks campaign   
<https://t.me/EricStrikerTRS/5855>



**Post suggesting that the "#VaxTheBlacks" hashtag is part of a coordinated campaign in the far-right online community (Telegram, 13 February 2021)**

 I'd like to see every non-white get the COVID vaccination before a single White person is offered it. #VaxTheBlacks  
 4 11 57

**Tweet, from a Twitter and Telegram user who regularly posts white supremacist content, suggesting that minority populations should receive the COVID-19 vaccine (Twitter, 10 December 2020)**

Replying to @WesternAnnie and @MAGAorc  
 Having been historically oppressed in America, I propose black people should get priority access to the life-saving 'roni vaccine #VaxTheBlacks  
 6:16 PM · Dec 12, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**Tweet, from a user who regularly posts about white nationalism, suggesting that African-Americans should have access to the COVID-19 vaccine as a means of increasing racial equity (Twitter, 12 December 2020)**

 I love this you guys! Good work. We need to #VaxTheBlacks and make sure all ethnic minorities take full priority in receiving the vaccine. Good work team 

**Telegram post, from a channel with a history of white supremacist and anti-minority content, advocating for more vaccinations for minority populations (Telegram, 20 December 2020)**

While most posts under the "VaxTheBlacks" hashtag advocated that minority communities should receive the vaccine, some posts suggested actionable strategies that far-right actors could utilize. For example, several posts argued that far-right actors should create false profiles online and pretend to be a person of color. Users further suggested "sneak[ing] into black twitter" to convince people to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

 The only time it's acceptable to pretend to be a NIGGER is if you're going to use it as a disguise to sneak into black Twitter and convince those monkeys to get the COVID vaccine jab #VaxTheBlacks   
 Video 5.6 MB  
 Download Play video 1:00

**Telegram post suggesting that far-right actors should impersonate African American individuals online to convince African Americans "to get the COVID-19 vaccine jab" (Telegram, 19 February 2021)**

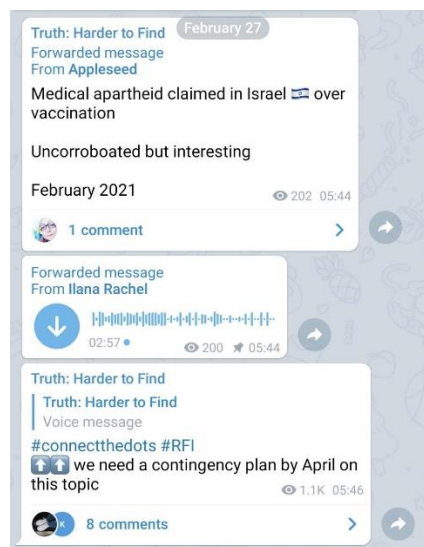
While the far-right actors' anti-vaccination campaign has primarily targeted the Black community for several months by using the hashtag "VaxTheBlacks," new posts discovered in February indicate that

the campaign may be expanding to target other minority groups. In late February, posts began to appear with the phrase “VaxTheKikes.” This new phrase suggests that white supremacists are now targeting the Jewish population for vaccine propaganda as well. One of the posts highlights the rapid deployment of COVID-19 vaccines in the State of Israel. Far-right activists noticed this trend and appeared to support the rapid vaccination of Jewish people in Israel.



**First post identified with the phrase “VaxTheKikes” (Telegram, 26 February 2021)**

Another post suggested that the rapid deployment of vaccines in the State of Israel is part a planned “medical apartheid.” While the user stated that the claim was unverified, the user appeared pleased by the information. In a subsequent post, the user stated that far-right extremists need to develop a plan to respond to potential vaccine “apartheid” in their home country.



**Series of posts discussing the “medical apartheid” caused by the COVID-19 vaccine in Israel, and the need to prevent it in the users’ home country (Telegram, 27 February 2021)**



## v. Leveraging Anti-Vaccine Conspiracies to Encourage Individual-Initiative (Lone Wolf) Attacks

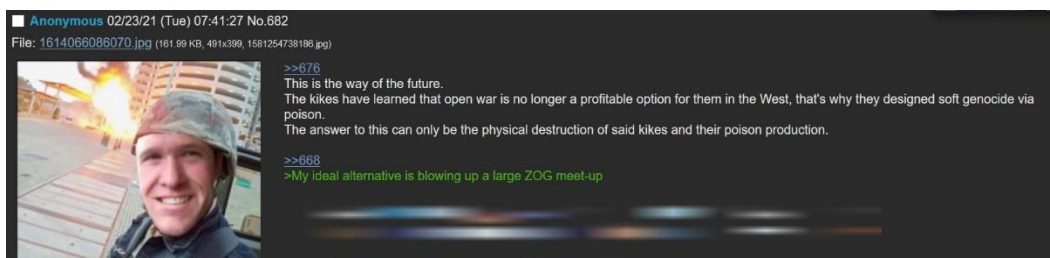
In later February 2021, posts were discovered on a darknet discussion forum frequented by far-right extremists advocating attacks against COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and infrastructure. Multiple users suggested that individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks were necessary to combat COVID-19 vaccine distribution. This could be signaling a movement from only discussion and action in cyberspace to also actions in the real-world. One post explicitly discussed the need for a future attack against COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing plants.

■ Anonymous 02/22/21 (Mon) 23:54:54 No.676

I am hoping the next Saint pulls a Timothy McVeigh on one of the manufacturing centers for that poisonous vaccine. I feel that's what the next Saint is currently planning.

**Darknet post stating that a future individual-initiative attacker should use Timothy McVeigh's<sup>15</sup> modus operandi against a vaccine manufacturing center (Darknet Board, 22 February 2021)**

Another post suggested that Jewish people were responsible for the COVID-19 vaccine and thus should be targeted for individual-initiative attacks as well. In this post, they also shared an image of Anders Behring Breivik, the individual-initiative attacker from the Oslo, Norway attacks in 2011.<sup>16</sup>



**Darknet post suggesting that individual-initiative attacks should target both COVID-19 vaccination production centers and Jewish people (Darknet Board, 23 February 2021)**

<sup>15</sup> Timothy McVeigh was the attacker of the Edward P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1995. McVeigh utilized a large car-bomb, ultimately killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more. For further reading on McVeigh, please see: Eitan Azani et al., "The Far Right – Ideology, Modus Operandi and Development Trend" (International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, September 22, 2020), [https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical\\_Right\\_Ideology#gsc.tab=0](https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical_Right_Ideology#gsc.tab=0).

<sup>16</sup> Anders Behring Breivik was the attacker of the Norwegian government building bombing in 2011. He also perpetrated a shooting attack against a youth camp on the same day. For further reading on Breivik, please see: Eitan Azani et al., "The Far Right – Ideology, Modus Operandi and Development Trend" (International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, September 22, 2020), [https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical\\_Right\\_Ideology#gsc.tab=0](https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2591/Radical_Right_Ideology#gsc.tab=0).

**In summation**, from November 2020 to February 2021, far-right content creators posted and shared material questioning the effectiveness and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine trying to capitalize on the underlying concern and distrust of the larger population. This content was primarily centered around four main themes:

- i. **Increasing Chaos and Accelerationism** – While continuing to post content questioning the legitimacy of the potential vaccines, far-right social media users also discussed how fear of the vaccine forwards the accelerationist movement and supports the white race in destabilizing the existing social and governmental systems.
- ii. **Increasing Recruitment and Radicalization** – Far-right actors advocated co-opting and targeting the anti-vaccine movement to recruit and radicalize potential supporters; they view the anti-vaccine movement as an ideal target as a result of their pre-existing distrust of vaccines.
- iii. **Connecting COVID-19 Vaccine to Conspiracy Theories** – To assist with their overall recruitment and radicalization efforts, far-right extremists have engaged in a concerted effort to link COVID-19 vaccines to existing white nationalist conspiracy theories; specifically, the “Great Reset” conspiracy and the “Great Replacement Theory.”
- iv. **Fostering Anti-Minority Sentiment Related to the COVID-19 Vaccine** – Far-right actors have engaged in an online campaign to encourage members of minority communities to take the vaccine.
- v. **Leveraging Anti-Vaccine Conspiracies to Encourage Individual-Initiative (Lone Wolf) Attacks** – Far-right actors have begun to signal a movement from only discussion and action in cyberspace to also actions in the real-world by advocating for individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks against COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.

While this type of rhetoric against vaccination has been common in the United States, the phenomenon is rapidly evolving worldwide. Global governments must be conscious of this phenomenon and think about ways to convince the public that the vaccine is safe. Failure to adequately respond and limit this type of rhetoric will likely decrease trust in the vaccine and vaccination process. Additionally, far-right extremists are likely to continue suggesting that COVID-19 vaccines are part of a larger conspiracy in order to persuade potential supporters to engage in individual-initiative (lone wolf) attacks. As a result, COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and distribution venues are likely to be potential targets.

## 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.

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