Right-Wing Groups on Telegram: The Full Spectrum

From nationalists to extremists, Intelligence Fusion investigates the use of the encrypted messaging app by right-wing groups

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I spent an afternoon researching right-wing Telegram channels.

This is what I found...

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The spectrum of the right is significantly varied in its beliefs, ranging from the centre right, right-wing, far-right and lunatic right fringe.

- The right-wing Telegram channels viewed were generally against modern feminism and political correctness
- The right have a perception that they're singled out unfairly for persecution by the media and authorities above all other ideologies
- Suggestions that Islamic terrorism is hidden under the guise of mental illness whereas white nationalist terrorism is amplified beyond true scale
- Claims that a significant proportion of society are in denial regarding the threat Islam poses to the West
- The white replacement conspiracy theory is prevalent
- The idea that Brexit is being betrayed and subverted
- The changing of the West is also a common thread
- The belief that politics will not solve the current situation, and that action, even violent action is needed
- Multiculturalism has been a failure is a common concept
- Anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories involving Jews are common
- Praise from the far-right and lunatic right fringe for white nationalist terrorists and encouragement to follow their actions
- On the lunatic right fringe channels there were posts that included direct threats against authorities

The rise in right-wing extremism is making headlines globally.

On the 19th September 2019, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, Head of Counter Terrorism at the Metropolitan Police, said around 10% of 800 live investigations now involve far-right extremists, a 'significant increase' on previous years.

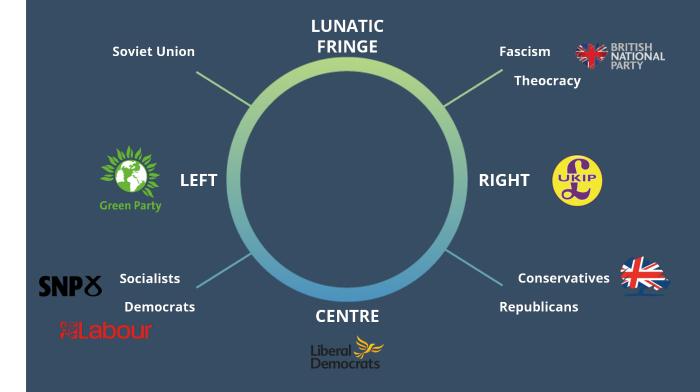
Although he added that Islamist jihadism is 'still by far globally the biggest threat people face', a quarter of all terrorism arrests in the UK over the previous year were linked to far-right violence.

It's clear that the growing threat of rightwing extremism must be acknowledged and monitored carefully.

WHAT IS RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM?

First and foremost, the difference between the political spectrum and where the far-right sits should be explained. We believe that it's not necessarily a spectrum, but should be viewed as a circle.

THE POLITICAL CIRCLE



To add additional context, we've highlighted where the various political parties in the UK would sit on this spectrum. This is, of course, ever-moving.

For example, the Labour Party's position under Tony Blair would have been different to where the Labour Party's position is under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

It cannot be denied that right-wing politics is on the rise in Europe, following stagnant economic conditions and the rise in migration. Just how successful these political parties will be in the coming years is anyone's guess, however, as an example in Italy, the Lega Nord under Matto Salvini's leadership has gone from achieving 4% of the vote to 34% in 2019, becoming Italy's biggest party.

The right look set to significantly increase their support base in the coming years and part of the reason is due to the irresponsible actions of politicians and the media. In the UK, people who have voted for Brexit are regularly referred to as being far-right.

Referring blanketly to those who have made a political decision to leave the European Union as far-right is a dangerous tactic as will be evidenced when some of the examples of actual far-right activity are highlighted in the report.

The perception of far-right has become far too broad, causing difficulty in identifying the far-right when they appear because the term has been used as an umbrella term for the entire right.

Intelligence Fusion actively monitors groups of all ideological beliefs and one of the main channels for monitoring right-wing groups is the encrypted messaging app Telegram.

Telegram is known for its propagation of jihadi channels, but more recently has seen new forms of extremism, both the far-left and far-right, use it as a platform to disseminate their views and theories.

Telegram appeals to groups, such as those with rightwing beliefs, due to the communication being guarded by end-to-end encryption giving users an added sense of privacy. It also only allows the administrator to interact with users of each channel.

Intelligence Fusion's CEO, Michael McCabe, spent an afternoon researching the channels dedicated to rightwing ideology and this is what he found...



Warning: Some of the content within this report is highly inflammatory and deemed disturbing.

TOMMY ROBINSON NEWS

The first channel we investigated was 'Tommy Robinson News'.

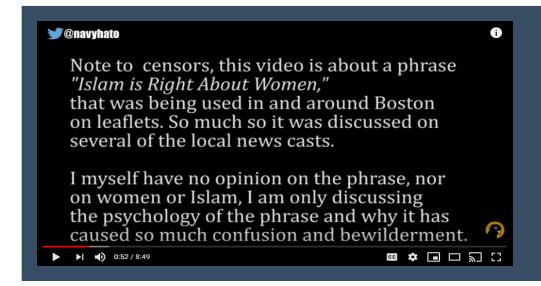
It's of the author's opinion that Tommy Robinson, a British anti-Islam activist, is not a racist. Instead, he's a civic nationalist, who opposes Islamism.

Again, referring to him as such, or as far-right, is an inaccurate portrayal and muddies the waters of what the far-right actually is. This will become more evident throughout the report when we take a closer look at actual far-right and lunatic right fringe Telegram channels.

One of the first posts on this channel was the sharing of a video by the YouTuber, Black Pigeon Speaks.

Black Pigeon Speaks (BPS) probably falls into the category of Alt Light (Civic Nationalist) rather than Alt Right (Ethno Nationalist) and in the video he comments on the recent discovery of several leaflets in and around the Boston area, which stated 'Islam is Right About Women'.

BPS includes the following disclaimer on his video:



The disclaimer is linked to the recent demonetising and deplatforming of right-wing YouTubers and Twitter handles by social media companies.

This in itself is a topic, which could actually make social media companies a target of right-wing extremists because of their perceived politicisation.

In the video, BPS includes the news channel's video of a journalist showing local women the leaflet which states 'Islam is Right About Women'.



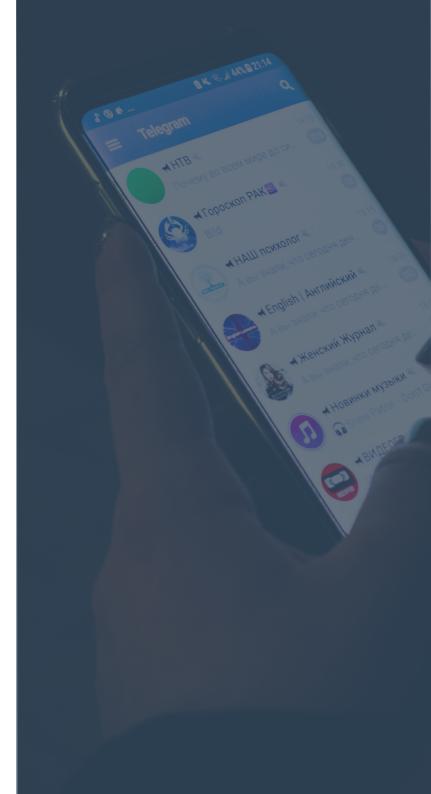
LINK TO VIDEO

Their reaction is of confusion and disgust; however, BPS makes the argument that the leaflet's phrase 'is a very clever delivery vehicle that forces people to confront their own cognitive dissonance and their contrary beliefs'.

He argues that one way to view the statement is that Islam strips women of their human dignity and treats them with contempt, or another way to view the statement is that Islam is a religion that provides women with the structure that their gender needs, and this traditional outlook on women is not so bad.

Put simply, what BPS is attempting to do is show that people are afraid to confront his perceived reality about Islam and when forced to do so through this leaflet, it causes them confusion and anger. It's also a multi-pronged attack against modern feminism and the modern politically correct culture. Looking at the comments regarding this post, there is praise for his perceived deconstruction of the news segment and suggestions of how this strategy could be taken further.

A key point, which is witnessed across social media, is the tactic of right-wing groups to deconstruct the perceived narrative that Islam is not a religion of peace. A key part of this is the dissemination of attacks/crimes/societal changes linked to Muslims, but also migrants generally.



A further example of this form of nativism can be found in another post shared in the 'Tommy Robinson News' Telegram channel which is a video (reportedly from Germany) which portrays a blonde-haired woman looking out of a first-floor window onto a religious festival taking place outside.

The festival appears to be Ashura and there are many shirtless men, beating their chests in time to the music. The point of the video appears to be highlighting how Germany is changing under mass migration and the woman's facial expression is suggestive of worry.



LINK TO VIDEO

A further post found on the channel is from Gavin McInnes, the founder of The Proud Boys, a male only right-wing group based in the United States.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) describe Gavin McInnes and his Proud Boy movement as;



The Proud Boys, founded by Gavin McInnes, are a right wing "fraternity" who present themselves as proponents of mainstream conservative values, but engage in extreme, often violent tactics to promote their agenda. The group is not cohesive and is highly decentralized.



The Proud Boys abhor progressive policies, liberalism and what they call "political correctness," regularly use violence in the form of street fights, and promote violence in speeches, podcasts, and videos. The group, which is nominally part of the alt lite, is overtly Islamophobic and misogynistic, and some members are also anti-Semitic and racist.

The group's members regularly engage in physical altercations as part of their hazing and membership rituals, promoting violence both as a means of becoming an official Proud Boy and as a tactic for defending their values. Proud Boys (including McInnes) regularly show up at rallies and events. Members of the group claim to act as "security" for controversial, right-wing politicians and public figure, including Vickie Paladino and Ann Coulter.

Most of the group's official Twitter accounts were suspended in August of 2018, leaving the remaining active accounts to push far-right conspiracy theories and talking points until October 2018, when Twitter removed the remaining Proud Boys' individual and regional accounts. As of October 30th, Facebook and Instagram had deactivated Gavin McInnes, and Proud Boys groups were no longer visible on Facebook. Individual Proud Boys' Facebook profiles remained live.

McInnes' post refers to the Department of Homeland Security strategy to add white supremacy to its list of threats.

McInnes states, 'This is really, really, bad news. The law enforcement establishment is listing patriots as terrorists. Proud Boys fighting back against Antifa was already garnering prison sentences. Now it will apply to you.'

This is key.

This is linked to the right wing's idea that natives are being ignored at the expense of migrants. They believe that the political establishment needs shaking up - the 'draining of the swamp' as President Trump put it - and that if you're a nationalist or a Trump supporter you're being singled out for persecution as evidenced by the lack of punishment or similar actions against groups like Antifa.

The worry for right-wing groups appears to be that they're all lumped in together and feel as if they are all treated as Nazis or Christchurch shooters.

Further down the feed, we identified a post about an alleged terrorist attack in New Zealand, which in their opinion has not been reported accurately or to the same degree as the Christchurch terrorist, Brenton Harrison Tarrant.



In the incident a man rammed a police car before chasing the police officer with a tomahawk shouting 'Allahu Akbar'. The police officer managed to escape and when the attacker was found he was wearing a police jacket and hat while shouting quotes from the Quran.

In the comments and editorialisation of the report key themes come out, which can be seen in much of the right-wing reporting on attacks linked to Islam or migrants, that the media and authorities whitewash any links to Islam, instead preferring the call the attacker mentally ill.

In contrast, they believe that attacks conducted by the right are magnified unfairly and that all attacks should be reported equally.

Another comment highlights a further idea that's common amongst sections of the right, that of white genocide.



White Genocide ongoing. Wake up, the gov want all whites DEAD a day ago

The Wikipedia description of the white genocide conspiracy theory states:



The white genocide, white extinction, or white replacement conspiracy theory is a white supremacist belief that there is a deliberate plot, often blamed on lews, to promote miscegenation, mass immigration, racial integration, low fertility rates, abortion, governmental land-confiscation from whites, organised violence, and eliminationism in supposedly whitefounded countries in order to cause the extinction of whites through forced assimilation and violent genocide. Less frequently, blacks, Hispanics, and Muslims are blamed, but merely as more fertile immigrants, invaders, or violent aggressors, rather than masterminds of a secret plot.

Right-wing groups often refer to a video of Barbara Spectre to support their claim that there is some organised plot by Jews to orchestrate white extinction in the West.

Moreover, an Ethno-nationalist YouTube channel, Red Ice Radio, goes further in linking Barbara Spectre to a global Jewry plot to push diversity on white nations but not on Israel.

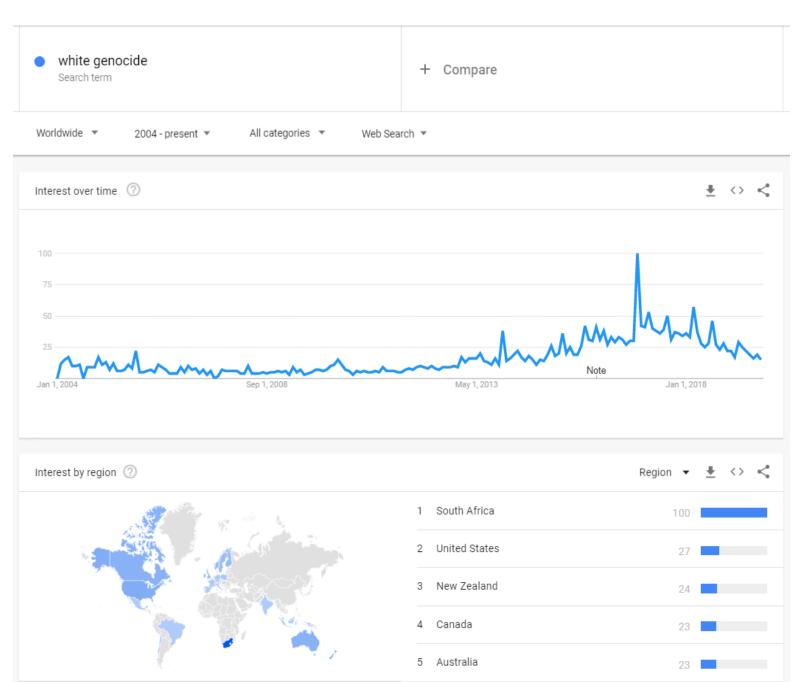


LINK TO VIDEO

The white extinction/white genocide conspiracy theory is increasingly gaining traction amongst right-wing groups in Europe.

The statistics that highlight low birth rates amongst Europeans and high birth rates amongst ethnic minorities in Europe is used as further evidence.

A Google Trends search for the term 'white genocide' shows that interest in the topic is steadily increasing, with South Africa having the highest proportion of all gueries, followed by the United States.



Google Trends:

Illustrating the increase in searches for the term 'white genocide'

EUROPEANIST

Europeanist's profile picture on Telegram is of the Notre Dame Cathedral on fire. Among their posts is an image of Chinese police in Serbia which is used to highlight the high levels of immigration into Eastern Europe, particularly from China. Hence why the police officers are in Serbia. Users also suggest that the Chinese are exploiting EU asylum rules to do so.

In another post they have posted an image, which suggests that women can either be happy with a family and children or they can have a career, depicted with the use of the Microsoft PowerPoint icon. This seems to be a post about women's roles in society and is a common thread amongst the right-wing community.



In a video from Proud Boys founder, Gavin McInnes, he makes the argument that women should not underestimate the importance of having children and shaping lives.

"All I'm saying is people would be happier if women would stop pretending to be men and we stopped trivializing child birth and domesticity," he said. "My gut says the majority of women like being domestic and shaping lives and until you've tried it, I wouldn't pooh pooh it or trivialize it."

In another post by Europeanist, they ask 'why is every conceivable means possible being used to prevent Brexit'. This too is a widespread theme amongst the right, that Brexit is being betrayed and subverted.

As analysts, we consider what would happen if somehow Brexit is prevented and the impact that would have on right wing groups and voters. The instant reaction would be that democracy has been betrayed.

Other posts refer to white nationalist terrorism, also linking it to the white replacement conspiracy theory.



EUROPEANIST

● 174 edited 10:21:37 AM

That word "inspired" is doing an awful lot of heavy lifting in your tweet thread, Lizzie.

Particularly, as the white nationalist terrorists you're talking about often go to great lengths, to describe their motivations, by publishing manifestos; which is precisely why formerly free nations often now have very stiff penalties for distributing such documents.

These mass murderers, of aboriginal European stock, could not make what motivates them more abundantly clear despite your determination to libel and castigate totally peaceful advocates for Caucasian survival, through egregious association.

Gasp! Each individual separately has DARED to NOTICE what is being quite deliberately done to their formerly cohesive and peaceful nations.

It is never the "theory" or "ideology" of Replacement Migration that drives the killers: it is the reality of such migration and the cultural erasure, mass rapes and casualty terror attacks, that go with them; often witnessed by their own eyes, friends and families.

All you are tub thumping for is the forcible eradication of yet more rights and liberties from European indigenes. Why? Because no one stands the remotest chance of curtailing the fundamental, rather than fundamentalist driver: base revenge.

Posts can be found that call into question the integrity of Imam Tawhidi and Maajid Nawaz, who users claim 'make their fortunes by telling non-Muslims what they want to hear'.

The Europeanist refers to the recent release of Martin Sellner's private phone communications. Martin Sellner is the leader of the Identitäre Bewegung Österreich (Identity Movement Austria).

The complaint is that; 'To reiterate no crime has remotely been committed here. Sellner and his Austrian chapter of the Generation Identity movement have been subject to a dozen punitive prosecutions and asset/computer seizures, and have always been exonerated and found not guilty by the courts. The substance of the communications amounts to little more than exchanges about the purchase of T-shirts, and the desire to publicly crucify Sellner at all costs lies in his being so effective in having conducted completely peaceful passive-resistance protest actions against demographic replacement and mass immigration to Austria. It's no exaggeration to say he is more enthusiastically pursued and arrested by his country's security forces than any Islamist'.

This reiterates again, the ideology of white extinction.

JACK DAWKINS

On the Jack Dawkins Telegram channel, the first video you can find is of an RT news segment. The segment tells the story of a 74-year-old social worker who volunteered during Germany's migrant crisis back in 2015. He has now been told he must move out of his state provided apartment to make room for migrants. Jack Dawkins makes the comment, 'Be careful what you wish for'.

In another post we find a video that shows a dead man covered in blood laid on a street corner. The comment from Jack Dawkins on this video is; 'West London this morning, another stabbing death, another statistic, another nail in the coffin of our capital city'.

A video of a man hammering a hole in a jeweller's window and stealing items is also shared. Jack Dawkins comments, 'New Briton smashes jewellers window and proceeds to take items, in broad daylight on a busy high street'.

LINK TO VIDEO

Dawkins posted a picture of three British police officers doing the hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil maxim. Underneath he writes, 'United kingdom authorities when it comes to safeguarding British children'.



The idea that British police are failing to safeguard children is a common notion from right-wing groups in the UK. The most frequently used example is that of the Rotherham child exploitation scandal.

Child sexual exploitation has been used more widely by right-wing extremists in an attempt to capitalise on this issue. Tommy Robinson, for example, took up the cause of Chelsey Wright in Sunderland.

Chelsey claims she was gang raped by Syrian migrants but the police failed to investigate the crime. Robinson lead a protest through the North East city of Sunderland and even gave a speech in the city centre.

Emotive crimes such as these can be used by groups to whip up hatred against communities and ethnic groups. The threat for authorities is that if this is not handled appropriately, you could witness community violence and the blanket targeting of ethnic groups based on the actions of a minority.

This final post from the Telegram channel of Jack Dawkins highlight several popular right-wing concepts. One is that the media are singling out nationalists for persecution and labelling them as far right. Secondly, he believes that the media lie and that it's time for people to stand up for what they think is right. And finally, he highlights that everyone is going to die, why not die fighting? This is a clear call to action.



Jack Dawkins

① 1.3K 7:53:14 PM

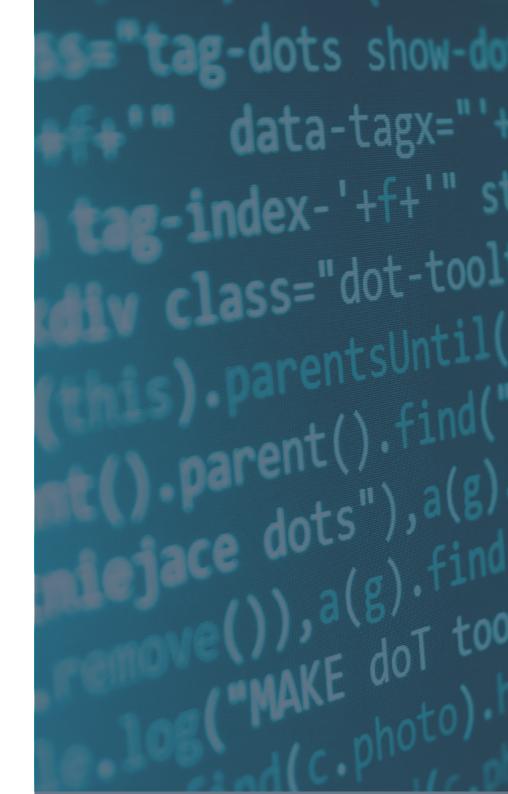
Far right is codeword for ordinary decent citizen.

What the MSM say is bad, is usually good, and vice versa.

Go with your instincts, trust your intuitions over everything else.

Stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone.

And most importantly, fear nothing, worst case scenario is you die, you're going to die anyway, die fighting.



TOM ENGLISH

The introduction to Tom English's Telegram channel is a video from UK current affairs TV programme, The One Show. The One Show conducted a poll where they asked viewers to vote on the question, 'Is multiculturalism working?'.

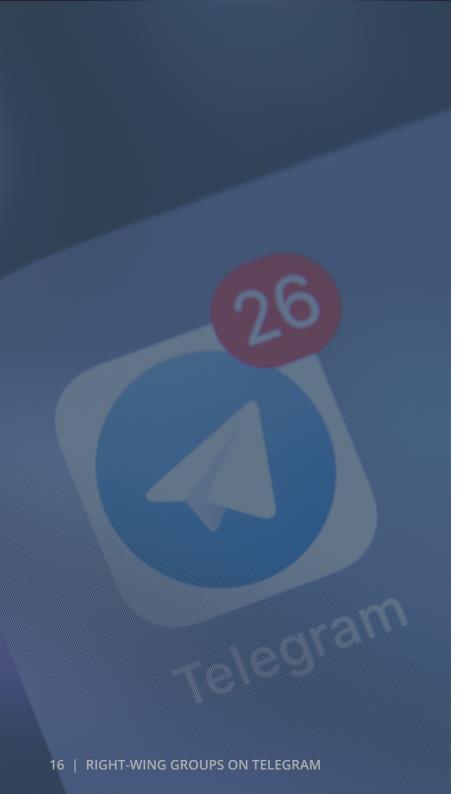
5% of respondents voted yes and 95% voted no, multiculturalism isn't working. The video ends there.

The next image shows a group of people gathered round a flag of a bee. The group appears to be the Manchester Collective, who claim to be a group of volunteers campaigning against left-wing extremism aiming to educate the British public about the dangers of Communism, Anarchism and political imbalance in general. The group claim that they're not right-wing but they do appear to be pro-Brexit.

In another post, a user shares a counter-demonstration against Antifa at the Conservative Party conference on 29th September 2019. Manchester Collective appear to be linked to James Goddard, a Brexit activist who filmed himself hurling abuse at the former Conservative MP, Anna Soubry. Goddard called her a Nazi after claiming she was a 'traitor' for betraying the country's vote to leave the FU in 2016.

In a Q&A, Manchester Collective state their aims to be:

- inspire locally organised activism in opposition to leftwing extremism
- educate the general, apolitical public of the dangers of left-wing extremism and provide advice on how to detect warning signs of communist and anarchist radicalisation
- shift the Overton window away from its perceived current position of imbalance to the left
- help improve the image and reputation of right-wing activists in general
- encourage the shifting of the focus of our criticisms inwardly for greater, more mature, lasting change
- restore political balance in general to avoid more polarisation caused by Brexit and begin the healing process of this once great nation
- unite the right under counter communism/antianarchism. Leftist activists unite best under antifascism, but why? Well it is our theory that it's because they don't actually have to say what they are for (which often they don't actually know themselves) which causes internal conflict. They all know what they are against though and that's anything they perceive as even slightly resembling Fascism. Fair enough we can play that game too.



NOGALS REDPILLS

If you're unaware what 'red pill' refers to, it originates from the movie The Matrix.

The red pill, together with its opposite, the blue pill, is a popular cultural meme, a metaphor representing a choice between the "red pill", representing a life of harsh knowledge, desperate freedom, and the brutal truths of reality, and the "blue pill", representing a life of luxurious security, tranquil happiness, and the blissful ignorance of the harsh realities of life, basking in an (essentially dishonest) illusion.

The Nogals Telegram channel is full of anti-Semitic canards, and derogatory caricatures of Jewish people.

One post shared, is of a Daily Mail article entitled; 'Children as young as six are to be given compulsory self-touching lessons that critics say are sexualising youngsters'.

The article is linked back to the theme of child exploitation in Britain, however in this case, instead of just ignoring it, they believe that authorities are actively promoting it.

THE NOTICER

The Noticer's channel worryingly appears to compile information regarding Jewish people. The channel has information on both prominent and lesser known Jewish people who have criticised white supremacism.

The owner of the channel appears to find Jewish people who have criticised white people and then posts their tweets and tweets which show that they are Jewish. Again, similar to the Barbara Spectre conspiracy theory, this seems to be suggesting that there's an organised Jewish conspiracy to undermine white nations.

Telegram Channel:

THERE IS NO POLITICAL SOLUTION

The name of this right-wing Telegram channel appears to suggest that direct action must be taken because 'there is no political solution'. The logo is of the Black Sun, the type of sun wheel employed in a post-Nazi Germany context by neo-Nazis and other far-right groups.

Again, most of the content on this channel is of an anti-Semitic nature.

In another post the channel has celebrated reaching 1488 followers by overlaying images of right-wing terrorists on top of the footage from the Christchurch terrorist attack.

14/88 is important to the far right because it's a reference to the 14-word slogan, 'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children'. The slogans were originally coined by white supremacist David Lane, who also used the phrasing in other writings including the '14 points' in his manifesto of the white genocide conspiracy theory, and further in his 88 Precepts essay, stressing his support for racial and ethnic religions, opposition to multiracialism and miscegenation, and support for racial separatism.

There's also posts supporting George Lincoln Rockwell, the American politician and neo-Nazi. In 1959, he was discharged from the United States Navy because of his political views and founded the American Nazi Party. There are also images of people being hung, with the title 'Traitors First' and images promoting the need to maintain white racial purity.

DEATH KVLT POSTING

Death KVLT's Telegram channel has shared a recent news article regarding the threat against West Midlands Chief Constable, Dave Thompson, from the neo-Nazi group Feuerkrieg Division.

The neo-Nazi group in the article had circulated an image showing the police chief with a gun to his head along with the addresses of the police's station buildings.

The channel also posted a 4-minute video which begins with a quote from Adolf Hitler, 'Demoralize the enemy from within by surprise, terror, sabotage, assassination. This is the war of the future'.

The video continues to show footage of Dylann Roof arriving at Charleston church, before it cuts to a news journalist talking about Robert Bowers motive for attacking the synagogue in Pittsburgh. A quote from the manifesto of John Earnest, the Poway Synagogue shooter, appears on the screen.

The video also includes a long segment from a TV portrayal of Anders Breivik's attack at Utoya Island, before cutting to an image showing Breivik next to the words 'What can one person do? Inspiration. Pass it on.' It ends with the video footage from the Christchurch shooters and the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. Imagery within the video portrays these terrorists as saints.



FEUERKRIEG DIVISION

On the Telegram channel of Feuerkrieg Division, a neo-Nazi network modelled after the extremist group Atomwaffen Division, the first post is again a reference to the threat against Chief Constable, Dave Thompson.

Users make reference to the comments left by readers of the article on the Daily Mail website; 'The deleted and remaining comments are something else'.

Below are the top-rated comments from the news site or reference:

- The rise of the far right and far left has been facilitated by undemocratic politicians ignoring the electorate.
- Shocking and something must be done. But tell me why this is different to the moronic rapper who incites the beheading of the Prime Minister?
- "Far Right", What a lot of nonsense. Even the poster itself displays that the really perpetrators are lefties. The use of the word "comrade" shows them to be Commies. Fake news.
- Those causing all the problems on the streets are not far-right extremists. They are globalists and far-left!
- Ooooooops; DM don't forget the escalating increase in the leftie fanatics PROVOCATIONS, that leads to nutcases' growth. Just saying.

- Dont forget the far left extremist.
- meanwhile the extreme far left hold up an effigy of the decapitated head of the PM at a public awards ceremony..
- NEO- Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party members parading around Britain! It's the bloody EU and it's open borders which has caused this!:p

You'll likely notice some of the themes that we've previously identified in this report within the comments section too. That of undemocratic politicians, right wing being singled out for persecution whilst other groups are given a free hand, fake news and lies by the media and anti-FU sentiment.

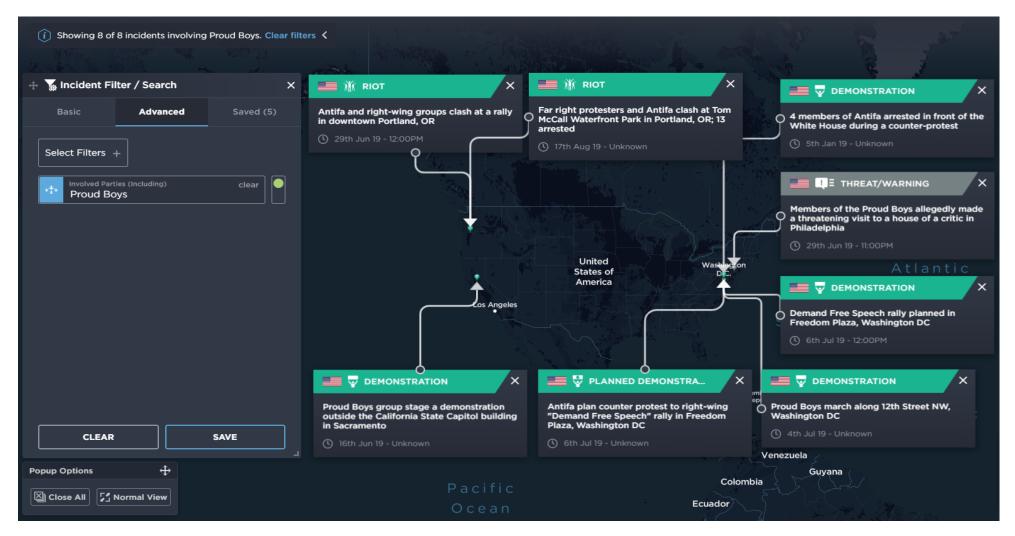
In another post, there's a picture of Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch shooter, taken from his self-recorded video footage of the attack. The image has been given the caption; 'Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything. Just do it'.

As you can see, the further we move towards the lunatic fringe of the right, the more extreme the content becomes. The focus is on praising terrorism and encouraging others to engage in violence.

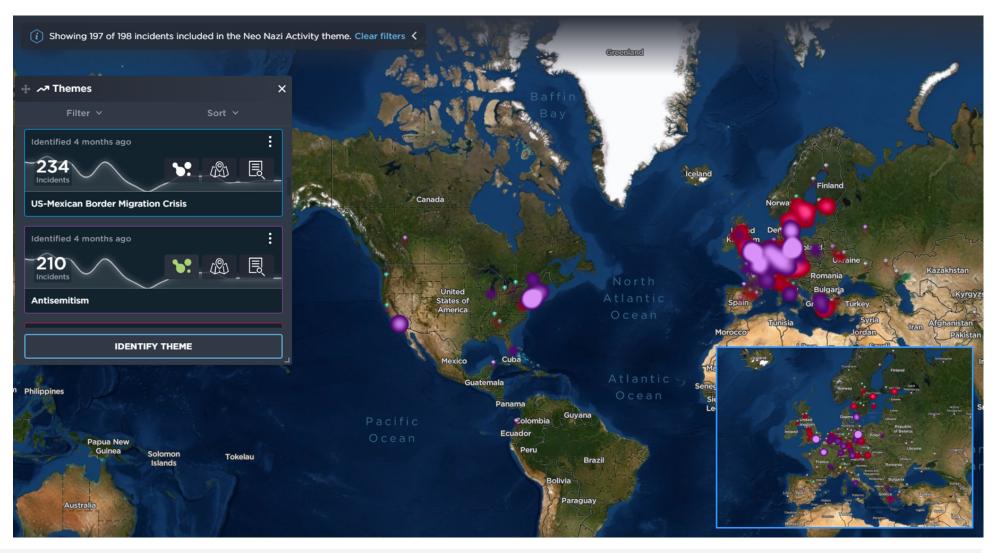
USING INTELLIGENCE FUSION

TO MONITOR RIGHT-WING ACTIVITY

Because we record the involved parties and affected sectors within each incident, using our extensive filtering options, clients can track and monitor the activity of various groups and quickly identify if their industry or operations may be affected.



Intelligence Fusion also tracks activity using our platform's 'Themes' tool and heatmapping capability. Themes identifies any trends and patterns within the data. By adding this additional layer of analysis and insight to incidents, we provide clients with a deeper level of context.



MAP KEY





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