

Reasons for anti-Semitism Allan Hytowitz, Allan@Dyop.org

There are Basic Values and attributes of REFORM Judaism that makes it "unique" from other religions (some of which include Orthodox Judaism).

Those "**unique attributes**" are:

1. the emphasis on **literacy** (as demonstrated by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process),
2. the emphasis on **cleanliness** (except that when I wash my hands before eating, I also pray to my microbiology teachers who explained the value of washing off the bacteria, viruses, and dirt before I eat),
3. the value of **social equality** (aka Tikkun Olam and Symbiotic Economics versus Predatory economics) for increasing the wealth of **everyone** in our society, and
4. the **questioning process** inherent in Judaism as the basis of "study." (I wrote an **Ad Grabber in 1994** suggesting we have a weekly Torah Study class. ***"The quality that makes Judaism unique is that when we do what we do, we think and ask 'why'?"***)

Ironically, I also realized that those same "unique attributes" of Judaism (primarily in Reform Judaism) **are also the primary sources of anti-Semitism** beyond the identity of Jews just being "another religious group with a different name for 'God'."

ALL religions have a "higher Power" (aka "God" or "gods" or "The Force" as mentioned by Brad). They all tend to have authoritarian (or semi-authoritarian) leadership, traditional prayers, rituals and customs, and a sacred history explaining their origin. I realized that some of those same "unique Jewish attributes" make other religions hostile to Judaism because Reform Jewish attributes conflict with the **authoritarian traditions and beliefs that are fundamental to those other religions**. (It is also why American religious fundamentalist support Israel because they view Israel as an authoritarian government.)

Ironically, item #4 on the above list and "typical" anti-authoritarian (Reform Jewish) questioning is likely a reason why there are so many Jewish Nobel Prize winners. While Jews comprise less than 2% of the world's population, they comprise 22% of the 968 Nobel Prize winners. Much of that disproportionate number is because of those "Jewish traditions" of literacy and asking questions. But #4 also likely fosters anti-Semitism since most other religions (including Jewish Orthodoxy) require authoritarian obedience to their traditions, Priesthood, and rituals.

Most other religions:

1. View literacy as a threat to the Authoritarian beliefs because discrepancies in their "sacred" written texts jeopardizes the supremacy of their Authoritarian "god" and their Authoritarian leadership. (I know a Rabbi who was squeezed out of his job when he took up my suggestion and started having Torah Study on Shabbos prior to services.

The wealthy authoritarian leadership of that congregation disliked having congregants who wanted to ask questions.)

2. Jewish sanitary codes were **empirically developed** far earlier than the discovery of bacteria and viruses. In most other religions their "sanitary practices" are what the authoritarian leadership wants as a reflection of their egos and can change as a whim. (My prayer, as I wash my hands before I eat, is to thank my microbiology instructors for their explanation as to the dirt, bacteria, and viruses I remove from my hands before I start eating.)

3. Social and economic equality (Symbiotic Economics) is an anathema since Predatory economics ("possession is 9/10ths of the law") reflects a primitive Predatory (win/lose) authoritarian mentality. That is also despite the fact that with the death of Colonialism and Capitalism as forms of Predatory Economics, Symbiotic Economics (win/win) has become the primary factor for the massive increase in global wealth.

4. Traditional religions view asking questions as sacrilegious and a threat to their leadership, and thus as a "threat to God." (If God is Omnipotent, then how can questioning God be a threat to God, or is that questioning only a threat to the misleading Priesthood? What is so endearing about Tevya is that he questions both God and his Rabbi.)

(Thanks to my training as a Scoutmaster I was also obligated to "believe in God." I realized the "solution" was the Scientific Maxim that the key to solving any problem is how you define the problem, so I came up with MY definition of God which also has "scientific validity."

https://www.dyop.net/documents/Proof_of_God.pdf

I also have figured out what Arthur C. Clarke, Douglas Adams, and Yuval Noah Harari **failed** to define which is "What IS technology."

https://www.dyop.net/documents/163_Years_of_Technology.pdf)