

# Khazarian Mafia

The **Khazarian Mafia** is an antisemitic conspiracy theory alleging that a clandestine cabal of "fake" Jews – supposedly descended from the medieval Khazars – controls global finance, media, and politics.<sup>[1]</sup> The phrase has circulated widely on fringe media and social platforms since the 2010s–2020s and was further weaponized during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine to malign Ukrainians and Jews and to rationalize Russian aggression.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Researchers identify the narrative as a rebranding of older antisemitic tropes (including the blood libel) coupled to a modern misuse of the contested and largely rejected "Khazar hypothesis of Ashkenazi ancestry".<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

## Background

The label "Khazarian Mafia" borrows from the historical Khazar Khaganate (7th–10th centuries), whose elites are described in some medieval sources as having adopted Judaism; however, modern scholarship disputes the scope and historicity of any mass conversion and rejects claims that most Ashkenazi Jews descend from Khazars.<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> The contemporary conspiracy theory crystallized on fringe outlets and blogs; for example, *Veterans Today* has repeatedly published articles describing a trans-historical "Khazarian Mafia."



Khazar Khaganate, 650–850

## Core claims

Analysts summarize that proponents assert (1) modern Jews—especially Ashkenazi Jews—are not "real" Jews but "Khazars" who secretly control world events; (2) a hidden "mafia" manipulates wars, pandemics, and economies; and (3) Ukraine is a "Khazarian" project or state, claims that researchers classify as antisemitic and baseless.<sup>[1][6]</sup> Media watchdogs have documented repeated promotion of the phrase on large online communities and platforms.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

## Use during the Russian invasion of Ukraine

From early 2022, researchers tracked the "Khazarian Mafia" trope on Telegram and other platforms as part of pro-Kremlin propaganda framing, casting Ukraine as a "Khazarian" project and using the rhetoric to justify or sanitize Russia's war.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Regional and European fact-checkers have debunked claims that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy intends to create a "Khazarian Jewish state" in Ukraine and western Russia<sup>[11]</sup> and have contextualized such narratives as antisemitic conspiracism.<sup>[12][13][14]</sup>

## Relationship to the Khazar hypothesis

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Peer-reviewed population-genetic studies do not support a Khazar origin for Ashkenazi Jews, instead indicating ancestry primarily from Middle Eastern and European populations with medieval admixture in Europe.<sup>[5][15][16]</sup> Historians likewise question the evidentiary basis for any mass Khazar conversion to Judaism and regard the popular narrative as an overextended reading of sparse sources.<sup>[7][17][18]</sup>

## Scholarly and watchdog assessments

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Think tanks and anti-hate organizations describe "Khazarian Mafia" as a modern packaging of classic antisemitic tropes, often bundled with ones about "globalists," the "Rothschilds," and ritual evil.<sup>[1][19][3]</sup> Media monitors have cataloged the phrase's use on high-traffic forums such as Reddit's r/conspiracy, where posts have promoted the "Khazarian mafia" conspiracy theory.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Notable propagation

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Fringe platforms and personalities have provided recurring venues for the narrative, including articles and interviews claiming a trans-historical "Khazarian Mafia" controls governments and wars, which circulate widely in conspiracist ecosystems.<sup>[10]</sup>

## See also

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- Antisemitic conspiracy theories
- Blood libel
- Khazar hypothesis of Ashkenazi ancestry
- Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Disinformation

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