

# THY NAME IN VAIN: HOW ONLINE EXTREMISTS HIJACKED 'CHRIST IS KING'

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## Thy Name in Vain: How Online Extremists Hijacked “Christ is King”

### NCRI BRIEF

#### Introduction

Freedom of religion has long been at the foundation of American progress, fostering innovation, cultural vitality, and a moral framework that has guided the nation's institutions. America's founders wisely enshrined this value in the first clause of the first sentence of the first Amendment to the United States Constitution. Recent data suggests that there has been an encouraging trend reversal in the long-declining influence of Christianity in the United States, signaling the potential for constructive renewal of Christian thought in public life.<sup>1</sup> This encouraging resurgence is being met with a challenge: the co-optation of Christian language and symbols by small, vocal groups of extremist actors who seek to redefine religious identity for ideological ends.

This report focuses on the phrase “Christ is King,” a profound declaration of faith, which is now being weaponized by some political extremists, distorting its meaning to advance exclusionary and hateful narratives. This hijacking of religious language echoes a broader pattern observed in the past decade, where identitarian ideologies—whether in the form of radical DEI initiatives or the excesses of “woke” moral policing—have restructured institutions by imposing rigid ideological conformity under the guise of moral progress. Just as these movements leveraged moral identity to enforce social control in academia and the corporate world, extremist factions now exploit religious identity to try and reshape public discourse, sow division, and erode the spirit of religious renewal that defines American democracy.

If left unchecked, this ideological corruption risks tainting an apparent revival of Christian thought, replacing a constructive and genuine return to faith by many with a polarized and weaponized moral framework by a few. Protecting the integrity of this resurgence requires distinguishing between sincere religious sentiments and the instrumentalization of faith by extremists to sow division and spread hate.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/02/26/decline-of-christianity-in-the-us-has-slowed-may-have-leveled-off/>

## BLUF

- **Extremists Hijack a Religious Affirmation:** The phrase “Christ is King” has been systematically co-opted by extremist figures, with mentions of the phrase on X alone increasing more than **fivefold** between 2021 and 2024.
- **Nazis, Nazi Sympathizers and Muslim Masculinity Influencers Converge as Top “Christ is King” Disseminators:** In 2024, more than 50% of all engagements around “Christ is King” posts were driven by extremists and fringe influencers. Posts by Nick Fuentes, Sneako, and Andrew Tate achieved over **13.6 million views** and more than **100,000 engagements** during Easter 2024 alone.
  - **Most Engaged Posts Come from Hateful Influencers:** The top influencers on X in 2024 included extremists like Nazi-sympathizer Candace Owens, Muslim masculinity influencer Sneako, and Holocaust denier Jake Shields, who collectively drove a **sevenfold increase in total engagements** compared to the 2021 influencer cohort, which featured mostly moderate Christian voices.
- **Proliferation of Hate Speech:** Posts flagged through machine learning as hateful rose from **9% in 2021** to nearly double with a peak of **17.3% in May 2024**, underscoring the semantic shift of the phrase towards a tool of extremist propaganda.
- **Mainstreaming Through Google Searches:** Google Trends data confirms the normalization of “Christ is King,” with search interest spiking a new maximum in March 2024, a **400% increase** from its baseline in the previous decade. Seasonal spikes, once confined to Christmas and Easter, now coincide with extremist-driven chatter.
- **Semantic Corruption Evident in Topic Analysis:** Antisemitic associations pairing the term “Jew” with “Christ is King” rose sharply, with Jews becoming the single largest associated topic for the phrase in 2024 as revealed by language models.
  - **Spikes Correlated with Antisemitic Sentiment:** Nearly **10% of all posts** mentioning “Christ is King” during its historic chatter peak in March–April 2024 included antisemitic content, significantly outpacing mentions of other minority groups, which remained below **2–3.5%**.

## History of “Christ is King” and Background

The phrase “Christ is King” itself has deep theological roots in the Christian, but especially, Catholic tradition, deriving from various New Testament sources which scripturally enshrine Christ’s divine authority and kingship. Its mainstream resurgence began in 1925, when Pope Pius XI instituted the *Feast of Christ the King*, as a response to the rise of ideologies like nationalism and communism that threatened to undermine the central role of Christianity in the West.<sup>2</sup> Until very recently, the phrase has been used almost exclusively in liturgy, hymns, and devotional practices of the faithful to inspire fidelity to Christ’s teachings and to emphasize His role as the ultimate moral and spiritual guide for humanity.

Today, however, a century after the *Feast of Christ the King* was instituted, extremists in America have begun distorting the meaning of the phrase and leveraging it as a coded symbol for their Machiavellian political aims. Rather than serving as a shield for the faithful against these forces, “Christ is King” has become cynically weaponized to shield extremists who look to destabilize American politics, inflame tensions within civil society, and encourage hatred towards minorities.

The political polarization during the last decade has become a fertile breeding ground for malign actors to destabilize American society to encourage such hatreds. Out of this period of upheaval, a small minority of extreme, neo-Nazi ideologies have begun coding the phrase “Christ is King” to give it a completely novel—and alarmingly malevolent—meaning within public discourse.

The first and most symbolic example of this phenomenon emerged during the *Million MAGA March*, held in November 2020. Attended by a broad coalition of supporters of President Trump, participants came from everywhere and included rank-and-file Republican voters but also some extremist fringe figures. Although there is trace of the phrase being circulated before then, this event marked a pivotal moment in its metamorphosis from meme to mainstream.

Most significantly, one fringe figure, Nick Fuentes, a self-described white supremacist who first emerged on the extremism radar in 2017 at the *Unite the Right* rally in Charlottesville, VA, has become a champion of the phrase for these purposes. Demonstrators filmed Fuentes infiltrating

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/solemnity-christ-king-background>

the rally flanked by his supporters chanting “Christ is King.”<sup>3</sup> Since then, Fuentes and his followers have continued to amplify “Christ is King” as a white supremacist mantra publicizing their antisemitic beliefs, particularly online. Using savvy outreach strategies like live streaming and podcasting, Fuentes’ once fringe ideology has become increasingly prominent in the years since his emergence on the U.S. political scene. Despite being repeatedly condemned by certain allies of President Donald Trump, Fuentes’ influence has persisted.

Concerns around Fuentes’ influence are growing in line with public concerns around how to protect younger generations from highly distorted ideas on social media platforms. According to the *Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)*, his followers—known as “Groypers” or “the Groyper army”—represent:

*“a loose network of white nationalist activists and internet trolls who gravitate around several key online influencers... They have a particular focus on capturing members of Generation Z, and in portraying themselves as American Christian nationalists, hope to attract disaffected conservatives by exploiting schisms and grievances within mainstream conservatism.”*

In an article published in December of 2020 by the University of Chicago Divinity School,<sup>4</sup> one scholar examines the initial adoption of “Christ is King” by the Groypers and other far-right elements. He inveighs that Fuentes’ use of “Christ is King” is not merely:

*“a way to soften the impact of calling for a white-led theocracy [sic]. Fuentes and others like him have been clear about their ideology for years. Instead, this represents a new kind of engagement with right-wing theocratic ideology.”*

While revealing his own partisanship, the scholar does rightly assess that the adoption of “Christ is King” by extreme actors signals a worrying resurgence of white nationalist discourse both on and offline. As this study demonstrates, little attention was paid to this manipulation until it had already left the margins of political debate and become increasingly mainstream. Social media chatter demonstrates conclusively that the growth of the term to promote discriminatory rhetoric in a coded language has been mainstreamed across the internet and, increasingly, into the very center of American public debate itself.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhCPDcRuWcw>

<sup>4</sup> <https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/articles/when-christ-and-trump-are-kings>

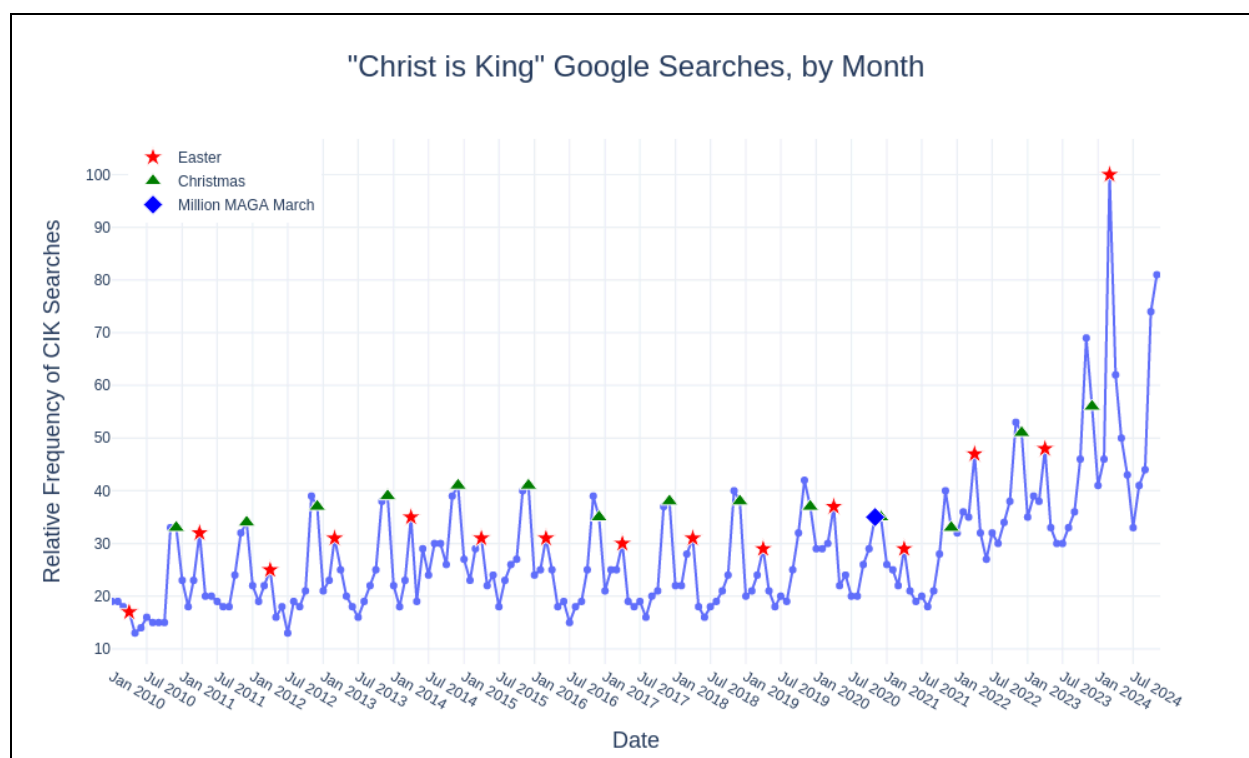
## Social Media Chatter Analysis

### Methodology

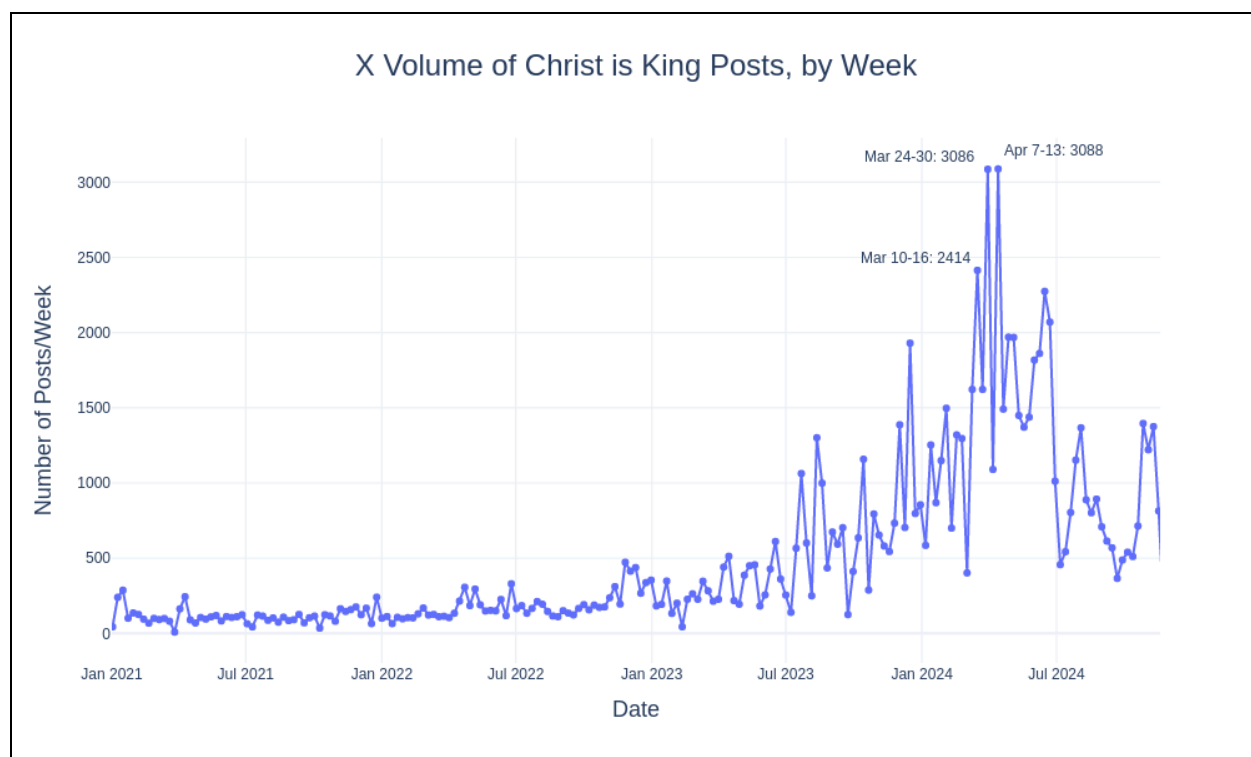
This discussion is based on two primary prongs of analysis, namely social media chatter analysis and AI-driven topical analysis. We began the chatter analysis by scraping 99,495 base posts on X—comprising nearly all mentions of “Christ is King” or #ChristIsKing published on the platform since January 1, 2021. These posts had over 2.79 million engagements and were retweeted 273,555 times. Similarly, we collected 88,496 Instagram posts containing #ChristIsKing since December 2011, thereby creating a two-platform dataset of nearly 200K base posts. The analyses detailed below—unless otherwise specified—were performed using these data sets.

### Escalating Extremism: The Surge of “Christ is King” in Online Discourse

Prior to late 2020, “Christ is King” carried little in the way of political baggage in both online and offline public discourse and, barring religious contexts, was relatively sparsely used. According to Google Trends, searches for “Christ is King” did not register an interest score over 50/100 until November 2022. In fact, since 2010, a baseline interest of  $\pm 25/100$  with semi-annual spikes around Christmas and Easter is clearly observable, after which searches exhibit a significant increase into 2023 and 2024. We note that in March 2024—the month that registered the intraday maxima of mentions for “Christ is King” on both X and Instagram—general interest on Google also peaked at 100.



Time series analysis of the social media data collected for January 2021 through November 2024 corroborates the Google search trend data with a much higher granularity. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, the average number of weekly mentions on X for “Christ is King” was 151. In contrast, in 2023-2024 the average increased more than fivefold to 845 mentions per week. Moreover, the top three spikes in weekly X chatter were all recorded between March 10 and April 13, 2024, i.e., in the immediate buildup to and aftermath of the Easter holiday. These findings clearly illustrate an uptick in chatter around “Christ is King” beginning in 2023 and a clear peak in activity around Easter 2024, as shown in the weekly time series graph below, with similar peaks being reflected on other mainstream platforms such as Instagram (see Appendix).



### From Faithful to Fringe: Evolution of Top Posts (2021 vs. 2024)

Top post and top user analysis provide critical insights into how “Christ is King” has been co-opted and politicized over time. To illustrate this transformation, we compare the top-performing posts on X from 2021 and 2024 based on total engagement (likes, comments, and shares) to discover the most influential users over time.<sup>5</sup>

In 2021, the two most-engaged posts referencing “Christ is King” were authored by Jack Posobiec, amassing a combined 34,000 likes. Posobiec, while known as a sometimes polarizing social media activist and prominent figure on the right in American political discourse, nevertheless used the phrase in its original, apolitical context. His posts, while reflective of his broader conservative views, were semantically neutral and devoid of bigotry. They likely represented a historic, normative use of the Christian phrase.

<sup>5</sup> In this report, “most influential user” means the user who generated the most engagements (likes, comments, shares) for posts mentioning “Christ is King” or “#ChristIsKing” over a specified timeframe.



## 2021 Top Posts



By 2024, the context had dramatically shifted. The two most-engaged posts collectively garnered over 100,000 likes—three times the engagement of 2021’s top posts—and were steeped in politically charged and antisemitic narratives. The top post, authored by Candace Owens, an antisemitic conspiracy theorist with a 6.1 million-strong following, appended #ChristIsKing to a conspiracy theory involving French Prime Minister Macron. Owens’s use of the phrase appeared to serve as both an engagement tactic and a veneer of religious justification for her conspiratorial claims.

## 2024 Top Posts



Jake Shields, a former MMA fighter and outspoken Nazi apologist, authored the second most-engaged “Christ is King” post in 2024. Like Candace Owens, Shields’s use of the phrase marks a stark departure from its original religious meaning. In his post, Shields weaponized “Christ is King” to promote an overtly antisemitic narrative, suggesting that Muslims “love and adore” Christ while portraying Jews as the shared enemies of both Christians and Muslims. This framing appears to be a calculated attempt to foster an alliance between extremist Muslim and

Christian factions, using “Christ is King” as a unifying banner to demonize Jews. Shields’s rhetoric exemplifies how the phrase has been co-opted as a tool for ideological warfare, aligning disparate extremist movements under a common narrative of hate. By December 2024, Shields’s X (formerly Twitter) account was demonetized and stripped of verification, reinforcing the extreme nature of his messaging and its rejection by mainstream platforms.

### From Devotion to Division: How “Christ is King” Became a Rallying Cry for Nazis and Extremist Muslim Influencers—2021 vs 2024

An analysis of the top ten most influential users mentioning “Christ is King” on X in 2021 and 2024 reveals the phrase’s dramatic shift from a faith-based affirmation to a tool for extremist propaganda. Engagement generated by the top ten influencers skyrocketed by **over 7x**, increasing from **123,376 interactions in 2021** to **916,634 in 2024**. This sharp rise reflects both the mainstreaming of the phrase and its hijacking by politically and ideologically extreme figures.

#### 2021: Moderation and Religious Roots

In 2021, the phrase was primarily used by a mix of conservative and overtly Christian influencers. Leading this group were:

- Jack Posobiec, an activist on the right and early adopter of the phrase, though his posts at the time retained a neutral, religious tone.
- Wendy Rogers, a Republican state senator.
- Mark Lutchan, a conservative Christian influencer who has been largely inactive on social media since late 2021.
- DaithiDeNogla, aka David Martin Nagle, one of Ireland’s top YouTube influencers who largely comments on gaming and entertainment, and also a devout Catholic.
- MMcLaughlinsong, aka Melissa McLaughlin, a Christian influencer and blogger.
- BishStrickland, aka Joseph Strickland, a former Catholic bishop.



This roster, while comprising a mix of both religious influencers and political influencers respectively, nevertheless reflected a predominantly religious and moderate interpretation (see above tweets) when using “Christ is King,” with little evidence of the politicized or hateful undertones observed later.

## 2024: Holocaust Denial, Extremism, and Muslim Masculinity Dominate

Analysis of 2024's top ten roster shows that the space is dominated by figures advancing extremist, conspiratorial, or overtly antisemitic narratives. In fact, apart from user PrayTheRosary12—who appears to be a religious Catholic influencer—most of the top ten users in 2024 can be categorized as either political fringe influencers, extremists, or conspiracy mongers. Topping the list is trad\_west\_, an X profile based in Portugal that advances a meme-driven form of theocratic nationalism and nostalgic Crusader revivalism. Numbers two and three went to Candace Owens and Jake Shields, whose extremist affiliations and vitriolic antisemitism have been noted above.



Continuing down the list, Nick Fuentes was the 7th most influential poster in 2024, followed by Dom Lucre, a conspiracy theorist who was temporarily suspended from X in 2023 for posting child sexual abuse content.<sup>6</sup> CensoredMen is an anonymous far-right account that has been identified as one of the top five X influencers driving anti-Zionism and disinformation around October 7<sup>th</sup> and the Gaza conflict.<sup>7</sup> Benny Johnson is a conservative political influencer who, in September 2024, was named, though not charged, in a Department of Justice indictment

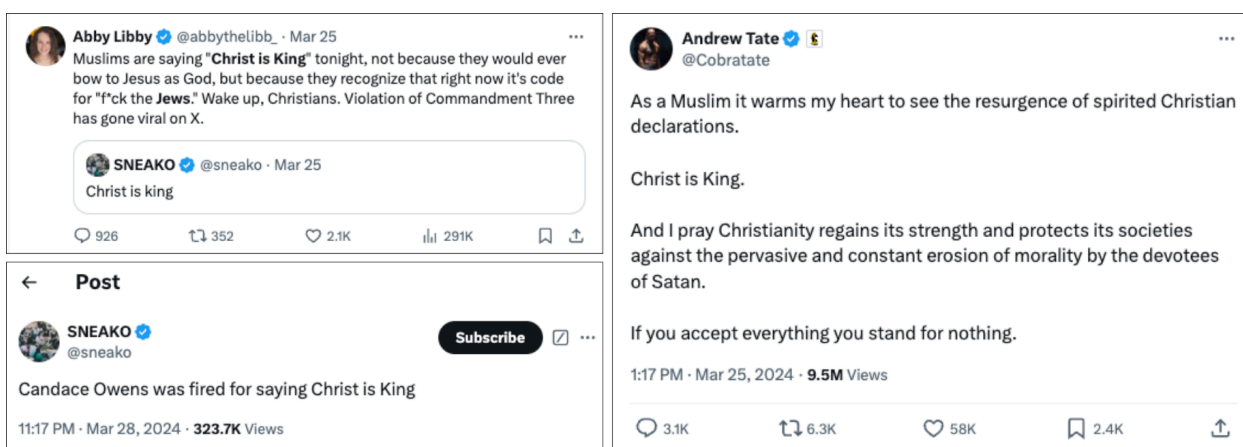
<sup>6</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/07/27/twitter-csam-dom-lucre-elon-musk/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.adl.org/resources/article/far-right-influencers-x-promote-anti-zionism-hate-and-conspiracy-theories>

alleging he was an inadvertent victim of a covert Russian influence information operation targeting the American public.<sup>8</sup>



Another extremist demographic that emerged among the 2024 most influential “Christ is King” users was “Muscular Muslim” influencers who promote a misogynistic, toxic masculine form of Islam that some allege is a publicity stunt or engagement boosting strategy.<sup>9</sup> One example is Sneako, aka Nicolas Kenn De Balinhazy, a Muslim internet personality who recently hosted a podcast with Jake Shields<sup>10</sup> and in 2023 called for Nick Fuentes to be a future U.S. President after he advocated for holy war against the Jews.<sup>11</sup> In a similar vein, Andrew Tate—who converted to Islam in 2022 and recently faced trial in Romania over alleged human trafficking charges—similarly amplified “Christ is King” in a March 2024 post that garnered nearly 10M views.



<sup>8</sup><https://www.forbes.com/sites/maryroeloffs/2024/09/05/who-are-tim-pool-and-benny-johnson-what-to-know-about-the-six-right-wing-commentators-doj-alleges-were-funded-by-russia/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.newarab.com/news/andrew-tate-misogynist-influencer-converts-islam>

<sup>10</sup>[https://rumble.com/v5s8i8n-sneako-and-jake-shields-full-podcast-future-mma-streams-nick-fuentes-and-ad.html?e9s=src\\_v1\\_ucp](https://rumble.com/v5s8i8n-sneako-and-jake-shields-full-podcast-future-mma-streams-nick-fuentes-and-ad.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp)

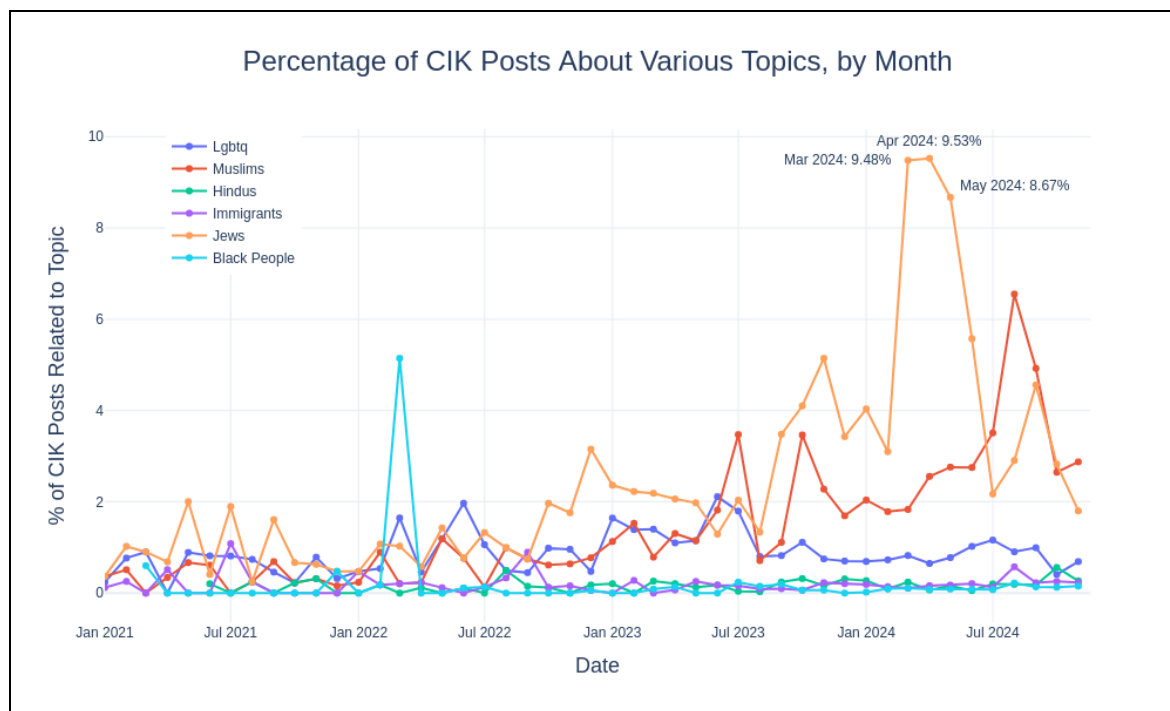
<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/VitoComedy/status/1680852059741106176>

The impact of these top ten influencers on overall engagement around “Christ is King” in 2024 was profound. More than 50% of all engagements (likes, comments, and shares) awarded to posts in 2024 mentioning “Christ is King” were driven by posts authored by these ten accounts. Connecting these findings to the time series analysis, we can see that not only has overall engagement around “Christ is King” increased significantly on X since 2021, but the top influencers driving said engagement have shifted from Christian faithful to mainly extremist pundits. This shift would likely be cause for alarm to millions of normal Christians who view the phrase exclusively through its historic, theological lens. Yet, in recent years, this phrase has been abused by those who promote hate online.

### **Easter 2024: A Historical Spike in Chatter but with Antisemitic Narratives**

A detailed analysis of social chatter during Easter 2024 reveals a significant spike in “Christ is King” mentions, reaching historical maxima in both post volume and engagement across platforms. Activity on X (and Instagram—see Appendix) surged during the two-week period from March 24 to April 7, 2024, with “Christ is King” chatter at its highest levels on record. Closer examination of this spike indicates that the conversation was far from theological. Instead, it was disproportionately associated with mentions of Jews and antisemitic narratives:

After performing secondary analysis on post data between March 24 and April 7, we found that nearly 10% of all “Christ is King” posts on X contained mentions of Jews or antisemitism. This finding stood in contrast to parallel mentions of other minority groups, which retained a baseline of <2% of total chatter. Though chatter around Islam and Muslims exhibited a slight increase around Easter 2024, it remained at <3.5% of the total “Christ is King” chatter—compared to nearly 10% for mentions of Jews or antisemitism.

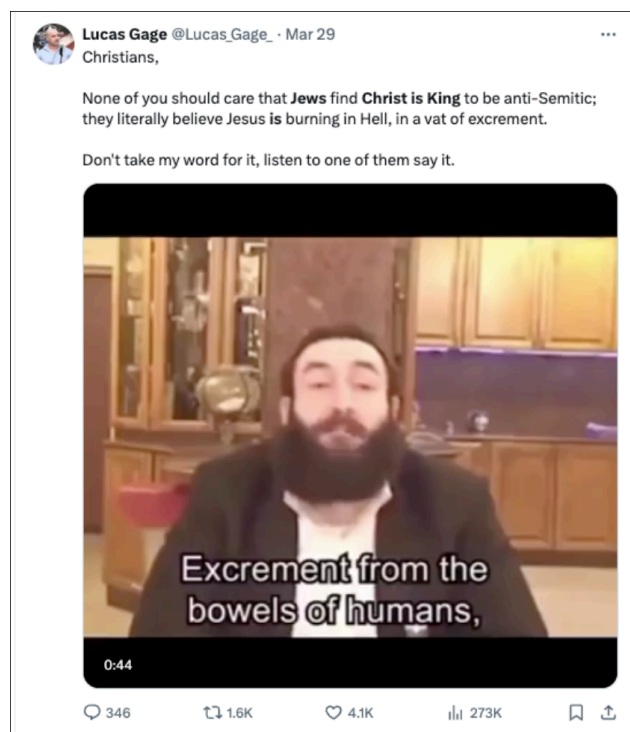


Candace Owens used Easter to initiate the viral surge of “Christ is King” during this two-week peak in March 2024. On Palm Sunday (March 24, 2024), she posted on X: “Christ is King is trending worldwide. The media’s attempt to cross Him again has failed. Happy Sunday.”<sup>12</sup> The post received >110K engagements and may have been in response to her March 22 departure from conservative outlet *The Daily Wire*. In the weeks and months leading up to her inglorious break with the outlet, Owens had taken to promoting outlandish antisemitic conspiracy theories—like the age-old blood libel that Jews drink Christian blood—alongside October 7 atrocity denialism.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://x.com/RealCandaceO/status/1771833319841309120>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/background/candace-owens>





The following day, Sneako and Andrew Tate—both “Muscular Muslim” conspiracy theorists—echoed Owens’s proclamation “Christ is King” in two posts with a massive combined 13.6M views and >100K engagements.<sup>14</sup> Later on March 25, Candace Owens took to X to expand on her decision to employ “Christ is King” in the aforementioned viral post. She argued that Jews “hold contempt for Christianity” while asserting they pretend “to be our friends and making us fearful of having the media project us as overzealous... It’s how mocking Christ has become commonplace in Hollywood.”<sup>15</sup> Herein, Owens manages to integrate several classic antisemitic tropes—Jewish deicide, contempt for Christians, and control of the media and Hollywood—into a single 135-word post. The rapidity by which it was amplified by extremist voices such as Sneako, Andrew Tate, and Lucas Gage<sup>16</sup> testifies to the digital interconnectivity of these extreme right fringe influencers alongside the intersectionality of other extremist ideologies: a shared embrace of antisemitism and the belief in covert Jewish influence.

<sup>14</sup> <https://x.com/Cobratate/status/1772221317019799930>,  
<https://x.com/sneako/status/1772048489372880911>

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/RealCandaceO/status/1772273631818612756>

<sup>16</sup> Gage was described as a neo-Nazi and White supremacist by Conspiracy Watch. He was suspended from X in July 2024 after filming himself brandishing a knife while threatening Jewish communities ([https://canarymission.org/individual/Lucas\\_Gage](https://canarymission.org/individual/Lucas_Gage)).



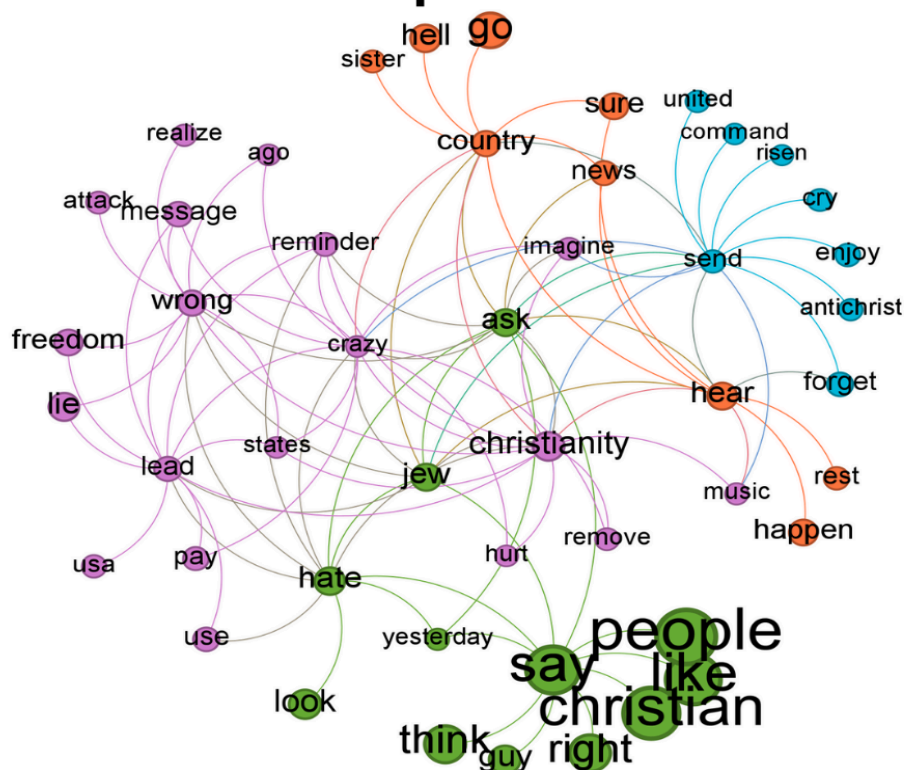
The unprecedented surge in “Christ is King” chatter following Palm Sunday 2024 can be traced to Candace Owens, who leveraged the phrase to voice grievances against Jewish and pro-Israel figures she blamed for her departure from *The Daily Wire*. Owens’s early posts injected “Christ is King” with explicit antisemitic tropes, including allegations of covert global control and the perpetuation of ancient blood libel myths.

This framing catalyzed a viral wave that was amplified by notable connections between far-right extremists and “Muscular Muslim” influencers. Figures like Sneako and Andrew Tate joined the conversation, using “Christ is King” as a shared rallying cry to frame Jews as a common adversary of both Muslims and Christians. These interactions underscored a growing intersection between extremist ideologies, uniting disparate factions around antisemitic narratives. The resulting spike in engagement was not driven by typical holiday-related chatter but by an apparently deliberate amplification of hate, turning “Christ is King” into a vehicle for ideological warfare at the intersection of far-right and Islamist extremism.

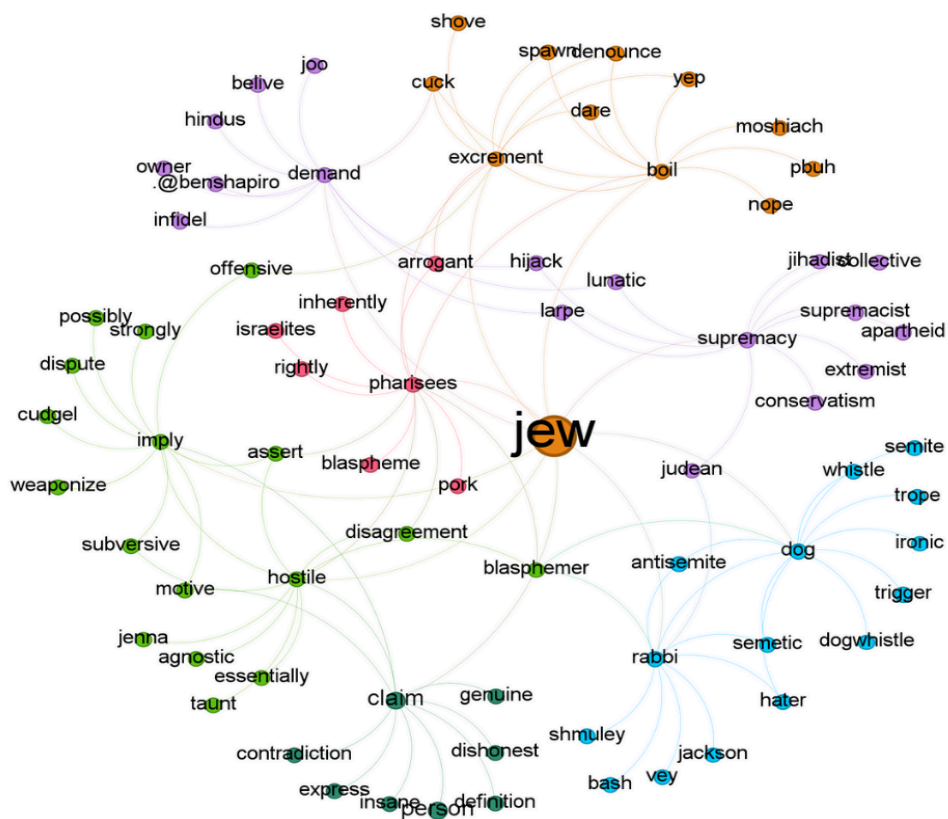
### Topic Analysis

An analysis of social media discussions from 2021 and 2024 mentioning “Jews” alongside “Christ is King” highlights a stark semantic drift and growing antisemitic undertones. The topic networks for these years reveal the increasing complexity and toxicity of associations, with a notable shift toward weaponized narratives in 2024. In 2024, “Jew” becomes the single strongest association in the model. Explicitly antisemitic topic nodes such as “excrement,” “lunatic,” “blaspheme,” “spawn,” “subversive,” and “apartheid” that are visible in 2024 were conspicuously absent in 2021. In some cases, the target of these negative associations—Ben Shapiro, Shmuley [Boteach], Hindus—emerge as distinct subtopic nodes.

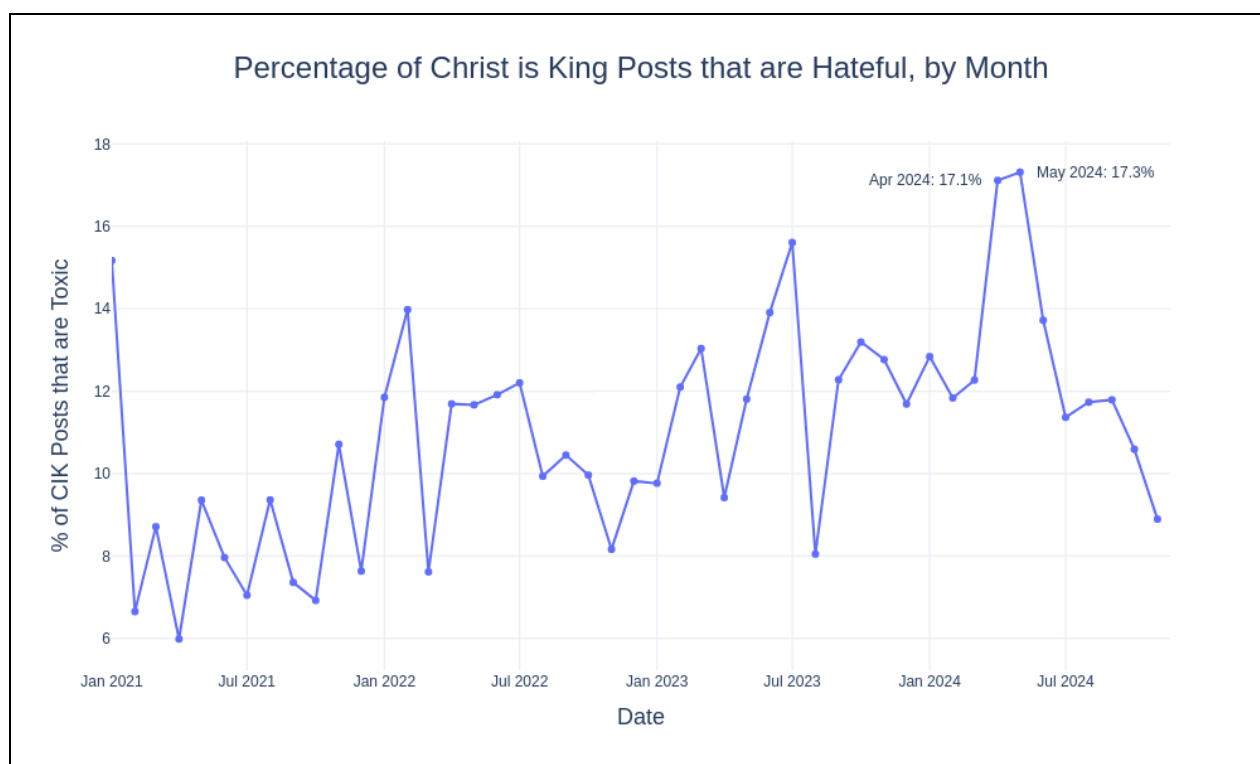
## 2021 Topic Network



## 2024 Topic Network



Using a customized large language model, we determined that in addition to the antisemitic outburst circa Easter 2024, the overall semantic context in which “Christ is King” is employed has become increasingly hateful since 2021. The AI-driven language model is trained to detect implicit hate speech against a variety of groups,<sup>17</sup> with all “Christ is King” posts being classified as “hateful” or not. We found that the yearly proportion of “Christ is King” posts that were hateful increased in each year from 2021 (9.0%) to 2024 (13.4%), with the monthly proportion of hateful tweets reaching a historic maximum of 17.3% in May 2024.



Since this classification was based only on the post texts rather than broader context, it likely underestimates the true frequency of hateful “Christ is King.”<sup>18</sup> Even so, these findings unequivocally testify to the fact that usage of “Christ is King” has become increasingly hateful since 2021, and in the case of the 2024 spike in chatter, increasingly antisemitic.

<sup>17</sup> We used ToxiGen RoBERTa, available [here](#).

<sup>18</sup> For example, short, supportive responses to hateful tweets by figures such as Sneako and Nick Fuentes—e.g., “Christ is King! @NickJFuentes”—would not be classified by the model as hateful since the tweet itself does not contain hateful language. In the dataset, there are hundreds of such short “Christ is King” tweets directed at Sneako and Nick Fuentes alone.

## Conclusion: The Memeification of “Christ is King” and the Perils of Idol Beliefs

The U.S. Constitution has always envisioned freedoms of religion and speech as intertwined, safeguarding civic discourse and ensuring the value of religious participation in public life. By protecting both, the Founders sought to sacralize the fundamental principles of democracy and enshrine the moral framework needed to uphold pluralism. At its core, the phrase “Christ is King” has historically been a sacred affirmation of faith, rooted in the message of unity, hope, and moral guidance central to Christian theology.

However, the weaponization or hijacking of “Christ is King” represents a disturbing inversion of its original intent. Rather than sacralizing shared values, extremists have exploited this religious expression to justify hatred. Extremists such as Nick Fuentes and Jake Shields, in conjunction with “Muscular Muslim” influencers like Sneako and Andrew Tate, have distorted the phrase into a rallying cry for their shared animosity toward Jews. This unholy alliance between Nazi sympathizers and Islamist extremists leverages the protections of religious freedom and free speech to suppress the rights of others and legitimize hate under a veneer of faith.

This manipulation of religious language signals not only an abuse of constitutional freedoms but also a direct attack on the civic and moral principles they are meant to protect. By transforming “Christ is King” into a hate meme, these actors have tried to hollow out its sincerity and reconstructed it to promote division and hate. Their coordinated efforts—spanning digital platforms, coded language, and viral amplification—demonstrate a deliberate strategy to use the rights enshrined in the Constitution to undermine the free society it seeks to uphold.

This inversion of purpose is not merely a cultural distortion; it is an ideological threat. By co-opting sacred language to foster antisemitism and build bridges between disparate extremist ideologies, these actors risk eroding the moral authority of religious participation in public life while sowing discord within American civic life. Addressing this trend requires vigilance, education, and the reaffirmation of the values at the heart of both democracy and religious freedom. The integrity of American civic life and the sanctity of religious expression depend on it.

## APPENDIX

Time series analysis of the Instagram posts reveals a similar trend wherein, with the exception of seasonal spikes, baseline weekly mentions in 2023-24 remained <200 prior to Easter 2024. In contrast, an all-time high of 997 mentions were recorded for the week of March 31-April 6, 2024. Comparing this finding to those from X and Google Trends, a cross-platform usage trend for “Christ is King” unequivocally emerges: prior to 2023, searches and mentions of “Christ is King” were low and primarily driven by seasonal spikes; in 2024, usage of the term increased significantly while chatter spiked around the Easter holiday. As demonstrated in this report, this significant increase in chatter was not driven by Christian faithful but instead by radical actors employing the term in an implicitly bigoted manner.

