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### **The Politics of Holocaust Analogies in the Age of COVID**

Around the world, opponents of mask and vaccine mandates meant to curb the COVID-19 pandemic have invoked the memory of the Holocaust in protesting government restrictions intended to keep the general public safe. False analogies that invoke symbols like yellow stars, the swastika, the Gestapo, deportation trains, Hitler, or the White Rose are not just manipulations of historical memory for political purposes, such analogies trivialize the genocide of European Jewry, tarnishing the memory of millions of victims murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. But what accounts for the increasing frequency of such invocations in varied political contexts around the world? These analogies play upon public understanding that the Holocaust was one of the most horrific events in human history. Opponents of government policies meant to keep them safe seek to claim victimhood status, comparing themselves to Jewish victims of the Nazis. But do even more sinister motives account for the rapid spread of such analogies? What are the connections between anti-vaxxers, Holocaust distortion, white nationalism, and other antisemitic movements globally? Where do we draw the line between “legitimate” political protest that invokes historical analogies and forms of protest that cross the line into denial, distortion, and racist rhetoric?