

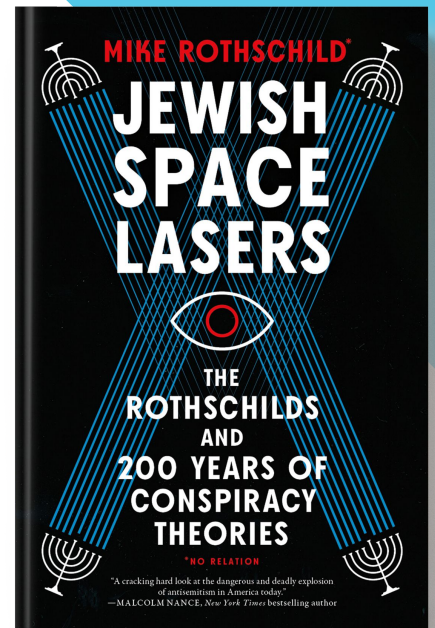
JEWISH SPACE LASERS

The Rothschilds and 200 Years of Conspiracy Theories

Mike Rothschild

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“ A patient and painstaking invalidation of antisemitism that also highlights its perniciousness.”. — **Publishers Weekly**

“ An interesting examination of how conspiracy theories appear, spread, and metastasize—not unlike tumors. With solid research and engaging humor, this book takes apart the conspiracy theories surrounding the Rothschild family.” — **Kirkus Reviews**

ABOUT THE BOOK

With the current rise of antisemitism, this important book looks at how one Jewish family—the Rothschilds—became a lightning rod for the conspiracy theories of the last two centuries, and how those theories are still very much alive today.

Jewish Space Lasers: The Rothschilds and 200 Years of Conspiracy Theories is a deeply researched dive into the history of the conspiracy industry around the Rothschild family - from the "pamphlet wars" of Paris in the 1840s to the dankest pits of the internet today. Journalist and conspiracy theory expert Mike Rothschild, who isn't related to the family, sorts out myth from reality to find the truth about these conspiracy theories and their spreaders. Who were the Rothschilds? Who are they today? Do they really own \$500 trillion and every central bank, in addition to "controlling the British money supply?" Is any of this actually true? And why, even as their wealth and influence have waned, do they continue to drive conspiracies and hoaxes?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Had you ever heard of the Rothschild banking family before reading this book? If so, what had you heard?
2. Rothschild conspiracy theories have been exploited by some of the biggest spreaders of disinformation and myth in recent history, including Alex Jones, Pat Robertson, David Icke, Ezra Pound, and Eustace Mullins. Have you ever encountered these people or their works before? What did you think of them?
3. What are some of the common tropes and phrases that are used to secretly mock or belittle Jewish wealth without seeming antisemitic? Have you ever heard these phrases used?
4. How do centuries-old antisemitic conspiracy theories about the Rothschilds influence modern antisemitism? How do they impact modern conspiracy theories in general?

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5. Why do you think Rothschild conspiracy theories have consistently grown even though the family waned in their power and influence generations ago?
6. What do you think explains the durability of Rothschild myths in the US, even though the family never had any real success in America?
7. Many of the central Rothschild myths, such as Nathan Rothschild manipulating the news of the Battle of Waterloo, or the Rothschilds owning almost every central bank in the world, have been debunked over and over, but they still have countless believers. Why do nonsensical and unevicenced theories like these have so much staying power?
8. Why do so many people in different time periods and in varied cultures feel the need to scapegoat the Jews in general and the Rothschilds in particular, for their own problems?
9. The Rothschilds have rarely, if ever, talked about the conspiracy theories and myths about them. Do you think they have a responsibility to do so? Or do you think the family addressing them might inflame such myths even more?
10. How are Rothschild theories an influence on similar theories about George Soros?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Rothschild (no relation) is a journalist focused on the intersections between internet culture and politics as seen through the dark glass of conspiracy theories. He has specialized in an investigation of the QAnon conspiracy cult since its inception in 2018, and is one of the first journalists to reveal its connections to past conspiracy theories and scams. Rothschild's expertise has led to his becoming a leading commentator on the subject for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, CNN, MSNBC, the BBC, and elsewhere.

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