

The one place Europe's anti-Semitic far right is confident of winning the Jewish vote

No 'moderating' dialogue is possible with Europe's populist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim 'axis' - only collaboration. And that's what Israel has chosen

Shimon Stein, Moshe Zimmermann | Jun. 20, 2018 | 11:43 AM

The adversaries of the "open society" are gaining momentum. Support for Europe's right-wing populist parties, and their response to the challenges caused by the refugee/migrant wave, is rising - and with it, those parties' self-confidence to push post-war liberal norms to their breaking point.

Last week, the German, Austrian and Italian ministers of the interior initiated an "[axis](#)" of states aiming at stopping immigration to Europe, confirming their commitment to an already thriving reactionary nationalistic trend in both eastern as well as western Europe.

Israel is in effect a silent partner to this axis: it is doing its utmost not only to prevent what its government terms "infiltrators" from entering Israel, but also to get rid of those who were able to cross the Egyptian/Israeli border in the past.

It was the Austrian Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, who after his [short visit to Israel](#) last week [\(re\)coined the term "Axis"](#) for the Berlin-Vienna-Rome anti-immigrant alliance, a term which even people with relatively crude historical antennae will recognize for its historical resonances.

....

***Shimon Stein** served as Israel's Ambassador to Germany 2000-7 and is research fellow at the **INSS**, Tel Aviv University.*

Moshe Zimmermann is a historian and Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

For full article:

<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/.premium-where-europe-s-anti-semitic-far-right-is-winning-the-jewish-vote-1.6195489>