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Jewish Emigration and Satire in the 1970's Soviet Union

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Jewish Emigration and Satire in the 1970's Soviet Union



PRESENTER:
Jack Reppen

BACKGROUND

When taking the microcosm of the Russian people to a broader sense, human tendencies around satire are uncovered, leading to effective disinformation campaigns.

Following the crackdown after the Dymshits–Kuznetsov hijacking affair in 1970, international condemnations caused the Soviet authorities to **increase emigration quotas**. (Friedman, 1984).

While press increased around the issue, **satire also increased**. The nature of the satire and its humor was not always clear (Kuo and Marwick, 2021), and tended to portray Jewish people as the enemy.

This lays important groundwork for why false ideas of “**parasitism**” spread about Jewish people. It also expresses how Zionism was being equated to Fascism as well as the increase in accusatory hate speech from the “Russian Liberation Organization”. Anti-Jewish Disinformation is a reason Jews wanted to leave.

Misappropriation of satire, especially when a humorous intent was not clear, caused Anti-Semitism to spread across the Soviet Union.



This newspaper’s cartoon contains a depiction of a Jewish star-shaped humanoid octopus, with each leg stretching over the world, and Russian words depicting anti-soviet agendas and ideals. (Abramov, 1972). This was created around the time when Jews were finally allowed to emigrate..

CONCLUSION

This plays a vital role in expressing how a commentary on a political event can turn into a far greater social issue that promotes **scapegoatism** surrounding Jews that plan to emigrate.

REFERENCES

M. Abramov, R. Friedman, A. Marwick, R. Kuo.,