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EXTREMISM AND NEW WORLD ORDER BELIEFS

BRIEFING NOTE

February 25, 2021

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

This briefing note examines the characteristics of the New World Order (NWO) conspiracies as a Violent Transnational Social Movement (VTSM), the risks and threats that the NWO potentially poses to national security, and racial group relations. Many of the NWO conspiracies have been embedded within the QAnon rhetoric, increasing the number of adherents who support the conspiracies. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a platform for the NWO to increase support and propagate its conspiracies and ideologies through the online environment, radicalizing vulnerable persons and extremists (Douthat, 2020; Goodman & Carmichael, 2020; Reuters Staff, 2020). Following the end of Donald Trump's term as the 45th US President, QAnon adherents migrated to NWO forums and conspiracies as they echoed similar sentiments (Bowman, 2021; Davies, 2021). This briefing note examines NWO rhetoric, soft and kinetic violence committed against government, authority, and Jewish communities, and the characteristics of NWO as a VTSM.

SECURITY PROBLEM

The beliefs of the NWO echo similar concerns regarding welfare and wellbeing as the rhetoric QAnon followers adhere to. Believers in NWO conspiracies have allegedly engaged in both soft and kinetic violence in the past and many of their believers continue to advocate for such actions (FBI Phoenix Field Office, 2019). Believers in NWO conspiracies are often socially-radicalised through the internet from openly available sources making it difficult for law enforcement to detect and predict future attacks (FBI Phoenix Field Office, 2019). The alleged infiltration of NWO conspiracies into QAnon arguably increases the potential threat to government officials and other societal elites (especially those of Jewish descent) and Jewish people in general.

BACKGROUND AND KEY FACTS

NWO conspiracy theorists assert that there is a secret conspiracy by "global elites" to establish an authoritarian world government (Anti-Defamation League, n.d.). The conspiracy began in the 1990s and was spread on internet forums and by right-wing radio hosts such as Alex Jones (Beauchamp, 2016). Some Christians also allegedly embraced NWO conspiracy ideas after Pat Robertson, a prominent Evangelical preacher in the United States, published his book *The New World Order* in 1991. Believers in NWO conspiracies have reportedly been implicated in numerous kinetic acts of violence in the United States including Cesar Sayoc who allegedly attempted to mail explosive devices to multiple Democratic officials and critics of former President Trump in 2018 (Romo, 2018).

NWO beliefs:

Coup d'etat

- The NWO alleges that a New World Order will be implemented through a coup d'etat or imposed through falsified pandemics by a global cabal of elites to impose a totalitarian New World Order (Douthat, 2020; Wheeldon, 2021).
- The NWO asserts that Americans, particularly patriots and militias, must support and uphold the second amendment rights to defend themselves against a one-world tyrannical conspiracy that seeks to strip Americans of their rights (Bertlet & Lyons, 2001). The Oath Keepers militia is a supporter of this belief (Anti Defamation League, n.d.b).
- Kate Shemiraini, a prominent QAnon and NWO adherent in the UK, declared that the UK government had declared war on the people by imposing COVID-19 lockdown measures at a rally (Doward, 2020). She had previously promoted conspiracies surrounding COVID-19, 5G transmissions, and vaccines (Doward, 2020).

Anti-Semitism

- The Charlottesville, Virginia "Unite the Right" rally created by the "Great Replacement Theory" asserted racial minorities, particularly Jewish individuals, will drive out the white race in America (Evans, 2021).
- The NWO conspiracy allegedly claims that a cabal of Jewish elites are behind the conspiracy to impose the totalitarian New World Order (Beauchamp, 2016).
- Anti-semitic beliefs held by NWO conspiracy theories have allegedly motivated deadly kinetic attacks against synagogues in the United States (Burton, 2018).
- A UK QAnon and NWO adherent believed Black Lives Matter was funded by George Soros, a Jewish financier who funds major civil society initiatives, who further accused Soros as a Zionist (Doward, 2020).
- Kate Shemiraini had repeatedly shared far-right and anti-Semitic content including images of Adolf Hitler, swastika symbols, declared the UK National Health Service as the new Auschwitz, as well as comparing the UK COVID-19 lockdown measures to the Nazi Holocaust (Harpin, 2020).
- A rioter from the January 6 Capitol Hill riots who stole the laptop of Nancy Pelosi, Riley Williams is similarly anti-Semitic, pro Hitler, and promotes accelerationism as a pathway towards establishing a genocidal white supremacist state (Bellingcat, 2021). Williams had appeared in a fashwave dance video with a Sonnenrad hat and Waffen SS book white executing the Sieg Heil salute (Bellingcat, 2021; Vlamis, 2021).

Paedophile Cabals

- Paedophile conspiracies have been prevalent within pro-Trump and right-wing extremist entities since the Pizzagate conspiracy that had inspired QAnon (Breland, 2019). The conspiracies postulate that liberals and Democrats facilitate and participate in child sex rings (Beckett, 2021; Breland, 2019).
- Adherents of QAnon and the NWO argue that the children must be saved from abuse in sex trafficking and paedophilic conspiracies involving politicians such as Joe Biden and celebrities such as Justin Bieber (Funke, 2020).

COVID-19 Conspiracy

- The COVID-19 pandemic was utilized to inspire a surge in New World Order conspiracies and misinformation that lockdowns were imposed to destroy global economies and force mandatory vaccinations (Douthat, 2020; Reuters Staff, 2020).
- The "Great Reset" Conspiracy alleges a cabal of global leaders planned and used the pandemic to introduce a range of damaging socialist and environmental policies (Appia, 2020; Goodman & Carmichael, 2020; Wheeldon, 2021).
- A French film "Hold Up" promoted misinformation and conspiracies on COVID-19 that wearing masks is dangerous and the global elites planned the pandemic (Goodman & Carmichael, 2020).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS/CHARACTERISTICS OF A VTSM

The NWO conspiracy can possibly be considered a VTSM as it arguably demonstrates the polycentric, reticulate, segmentary, and transnational characteristics of a Violent Transnational Social Movement (VTSM) (Kelshall, 2019). Both NWO and QAnon are leaderless movements whose adherents are typically self-radicalized on the internet in multiple countries (FBI Phoenix Field Office, 2019; Douthat, 2020; Goodman & Carmichael, 2020; Wheeldon, 2021). Additionally, the wide range of beliefs incorporated into the NWO conspiracy demonstrates the segmentary nature of the movement.

The adherents seek to express dominance, authority, and legitimacy over Jewish communities whom they believe are masters of global domination and government manipulation (East, 2020). The polycentric, reticulate, and segmentary nature arguably aids its transnational influence and radicalization of vulnerable persons often in western countries. Adherents of NWO conspiracies have demonstrated resilience and adaptability as demonstrated by the loss of their symbol Donald Trump and the incorporation of COVID-19 conspiracies and usage of COVID-19 lockdown as a platform to propagate their rhetoric (Bowman, 2021; Goodman & Carmichael, 2020; Wheeldon, 2021).

The characteristics of a VTSM coupled with its demonstration of resilience and adaptability is a concern for western nations, particularly the USA, Canada, and the UK where the NWO belief is prevalent. The anti-COVID-19 lockdown sentiments, COVID-19 conspiracies, and misinformation allows for the radicalisation of vulnerable persons at an increased rate and possibly towards QAnon and NWO rhetoric as a gateway (Douthat, 2020; Wheeldon, 2021). This is concerning for Canada as the "Great Reset" theory, that alleges a cabal of global leaders used the pandemic to introduce a range of damaging socialist and environmental policies, has resurged. The Great Reset conspiracy theory alleges that Prime Minister Trudeau has used the pandemic to collapse the economy and impose authoritarian lockdown to destroy society and force mandatory vaccinations that will be followed by a New World Order (Appia, 2020; Goodman & Carmichael, 2020). The prevalence of anti-lockdown sentiments alongside an adamant belief in COVID-19 conspiracies in Canada suggests increased rates of radicalization towards NWO rhetoric as lockdown continues into its second year (Appia, 2020; Kestler-D'Amours, 2020).

WHAT IS NOT KNOWN

It is unknown the precise number of adherents of the NWO within QAnon, the Oath Keepers, militias, right-wing extremist, or neo-Nazi entities. The NWO has been focused on Jewish communities and government but it is unknown if they may incorporate anti-Chinese, anti-Russian, or anti-Communist conspiracies into their rhetoric. The existence of conspiracies asserting mass government surveillance has been limited to COVID-19 lockdowns and vaccines and it is currently unknown how and to what extent the conspiracy may be incorporated into the NWO rhetoric in a post-COVID-19 landscape.

NEXT STEPS

- Further research and surveillance should be conducted to examine the impact and transition of the NWO rhetoric in a post-COVID-19 landscape, whether they will incorporate new conspiracies into their rhetoric or propagate existing conspiracies into more extreme manners.
- Further research should be conducted to examine possible anti-Communist, anti-Russian, or anti-Chinese conspiracies into the NWO rhetoric such as conspiracies against Russian and Chinese vaccines and communities, as well as against the Russian and Chinese governments.
- Further research and surveillance should be conducted to identify key adherents to the NWO rhetoric and the possibility they may commit or incite soft or kinetic violence.
- Further research should be conducted to identify the extent the NWO rhetoric has on conspiracy groups, anti-public health measures groups, militias, and right-wing extremist groups in Canada.

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