



# STUDY GUIDE

## THE “ANTI-HATE” GROUP THAT IS A HATE GROUP

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**KEY TERMS:** American hate group      free thinking incite      establishment media alarmism      extremist fascists

<b>NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	<b>CUE COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.
<p>What was the Southern Poverty Law Center originally founded as?</p> <p>How many volunteer hours have attorneys for the ADF donated in defense of religious freedom?</p> <p>What reason did the gunman who attempted mass murder of the Family Research Council give police for his motive?</p>	<p>How does the Southern Poverty Law Center operate - i.e. what does it claim to do and what does it actually do?</p> <p>Why is the Southern Poverty Law Center so bad for America?</p>

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Zinsmeister explains that, “Rigorous debate, honest discussion, open exchange of ideas—that’s the American way. But free thinking and speech are threatened today by a group with a sweet-sounding name that conceals a nefarious purpose. This group is called the Southern Poverty Law Center, or SPLC. Originally founded as a civil-rights law firm in 1971, the SPLC reinvented itself in the mid-’80s as a political attack group. Every year now it produces a new list of people and charities it claims are “extremists” and “haters.” Aided by glowing coverage from the establishment media, the SPLC’s hate list has become a weapon for taking individuals and groups they disagree with and tarring them with ugly associations.” Why do you think that the SPLC changed its purpose from being a protection of civil rights group to being a hate group? What factors do you think might have contributed to such a drastic change? Why do you think that the SPLC has adopted the particular destructive tactics that it has?
- Mr. Zinsmeister goes on to share with us that, “Scores of other individuals and charities active in mainstream conservative or religious causes have likewise been branded by the Southern Poverty Law Center as threats to society... What is not honorable is the course prescribed by a leader of the SPLC, Mark Potok, who was caught on video proclaiming the organization’s true intentions. He told a group of supporters, quote, “the press will describe us as ‘monitoring hate crimes’.... I want to say plainly that our aim in life is to destroy these groups, to completely destroy them.” Why do you think that the SPLC wants to incite actual violence and wants to literally destroy groups it disagrees with? Why is this approach so un-American?
- Later, Mr. Zinsmeister states that, “Portraying someone with political views different from your own as a public menace... is bullying. And it’s a dangerous game. Instead of reducing hate and violence, the SPLC’s name-calling directly incites it... It’s a vicious irony: while promoting itself as a monitor of “hate groups,” the SPLC has in practice ... become a fomenter of hate.” Do you think that the SPLC is hypocritical? Why or why not? What might some other negative consequences of the SPLC’s actions be?
- Towards the end of the video, Mr. Zinsmeister notes that, “...alarmism is a great fundraising technique. Convincing people there are fascists everywhere has turned the SPLC into a cash machine. In 2015, the group hustled \$139 million out of frightened donors, adding to the \$400 million of assets they were already sitting on.” Why do you think that so many people are ignorant regarding what’s really happening in their own country- especially in terms of the strength and size of organized political groups, hate groups, and so-called ‘fascists?’ Do you think that it is wrong for the SPLC to stoke fear and then manipulate and take advantage of the people that they have deceived? Why or why not?
- At the conclusion of the video, Mr. Zinsmeister points out that, “...the next time you see the Southern Poverty Law Center quoted in the news, just remember: the masterminds behind the SPLC aren’t eliminating hate; they are fueling it.” In what ways, specifically, is the SPLC fueling hate? Why do you think that much of the mainstream media treats the SPLC as a legitimate authority to be quoted instead of as the powerful hate group that they actually are? Do you think that the SPLC is a legitimate authority that should be quoted or is a hate group? Explain.

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Ayaan Hirsi Ali

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Ayaan Hirsi Ali on Being Labeled an ‘Extremist’ By the Southern Poverty Law Center,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Who is Ayaan Hirsi Ali? Why did the SPLC target her? How did she react?
- Who do you think actually benefits from the money that goes to the SPLC? Explain. Would you support the SPLC in its current form? Why or why not?
- How does this article support any points made in the video? Explain.



# QUIZ

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  - a. A political attack group
  - b. A civil-rights law firm
  - c. A charity
  - d. A government program
  
2. **What is a strategy of the Southern Poverty Law Center?**
  - a. Undermine legitimate political voices they oppose.
  - b. Empower groups they don't agree with.
  - c. Hold open discussions on college campuses.
  - d. Employ truth-seeking fundraising techniques.
  
3. **The masterminds behind the Southern Poverty Law Center are fueling hate.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. **Which of the following characterizes the values of the Southern Poverty Law Center?**
  - a. Rigorous debate
  - b. Honest discussion
  - c. Open exchange of ideas
  - d. None of the above.
  
5. **On the Southern Poverty Law Center's notorious "Hate Map," they list \_\_\_\_ separate hate groups in the U.S.**
  - a. 14
  - b. 236
  - c. 558
  - d. 917



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/cortneyobrien/2017/08/25/ayaan-hirsi-ali-on-being-labeled-an-extremist-by-the-southern-poverty-law-center-n2373135>

## Ayaan Hirsi Ali on Being Labeled an 'Extremist' By the Southern Poverty Law Center



Cortney O'Brien

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Posted: Aug 25, 2017 11:05 AM



Just about everyone is incensed over the Southern Poverty Law Center's recent list of who they deem to be "hate groups" in the United States. We've covered that misleading list extensively, helping to drag reputable groups like Alliance Defending Freedom and the Family Research Council out of the mud, not to mention churches who only made the list because they oppose gay marriage.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is an activist who was once a victim of genital mutilation as a young girl in Somalia. It's no wonder she is now an outspoken critic of Islamic extremism. Today, this bold woman has called out feminists who refuse to speak out against radical Islam, demanding reform "in cultures and religious doctrines that continue to oppress women." She continues to speak out against political violence despite the danger it puts her in.

Nevertheless, Hirsi Ali was somehow included in the SPLC's "Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists."

She penned a response in *The New York Times*.

In that guide, the S.P.L.C. claims that I am a “propagandist far outside the political mainstream” and warns journalists to avoid my “damaging misinformation.” These groundless smears are deeply offensive, as I have dedicated much of my adult life to calling out the true extremists: organizations such as Al Qaeda and ISIS. Yet you will look in vain for the S.P.L.C.’s “Field Guide to Muslim Extremists.” No such list exists.

The SPLC missed the mark badly, she says. Islamic extremism is an evil - "as toxic as white supremacy."

Sadly, the SPLC has fooled big corporations into believing their effort is a worthy one. The likes of JPMorgan Chase and Apple have donated nearly \$2 million to the SPLC since they published their "hate" list.

"If Tim Cook and Jamie Dimon had done their due diligence, they would know that the S.P.L.C. is an organization that has lost its way, smearing people who are fighting for liberty and turning a blind eye to an ideology and political movement that has much in common with Nazism," Hirsi Ali writes.

*The Wall Street Journal's* Kimberly Strassel echoes Hirsi Ali in an urgent op-ed published Thursday night. Had these companies done their homework, she writes, they would have discovered that SPLC is not a charity, it is a "propaganda operation" whose No. 1 goal is fundraising.