

ABSTRACT

The 1930s and 40s marked a tumultuous political period in South Africa. Central political players and their respective parties, whether government, opposition, extra-parliamentary or other all jostled for power. Socio-economic and political events locally and on a global scale merged with religio-nationalistic ideology to mobilise Afrikaners into a collective and to form a maelstrom within which antisemitism flared up in the country. This rise of antisemitism created a serious 'Jewish Question' in South Africa and is the entry point for this research paper which takes a closer look at the reasons for the content of the opinion piece that Verwoerd, as editor of this Nationalist Party paper, penned in the first edition of *Die Transvaler* in October 1937, namely the 'Nationalist viewpoint on the Jewish Question: the solution' which effectively championed economic antisemitism. It also looks more in depth at the media libel case between Verwoerd and *The Star* and finds that there were multiple instances of falsification of news in the court case that found Verwoerd guilty of promoting Nazi propaganda and making his paper a tool for the Nazis during the Second World War. The outcome of this research directly links Dr. H.F. Verwoerd's negative portrayal of the Jewish Question in *Die Transvaler* with the intent to mobilise Afrikaner Nationalism in the lead up to the 1948 elections.

