

Trump and American Fascism



Why call it Fascism?

- **This topic is about “generic” fascism, NOT the Italian or German variety.**
- **The word “fascist” has the appropriate historical context and emotional content for this time. Another word is “authoritarianism”.**
- **“Fascism” is also used as a paradigm in order to properly understand the Trump phenomenon and what we’re up against.**
- **In order to understand and deal with Donald Trump, his enablers in Congress, Fox News and his indoctrinated base, we need to think of the Trump movement as a fascist political movement.**

The Central Idea Behind Fascism

- Fascism is about permanently acquiring and exercising raw unchallenged political power.
- This makes fascism an enemy of democracy, compassion and human rights by nature.
- The central motivation of fascism is fear.
- The “DNA” of fascism is authoritarianism in family, church, workplace and school.

How Fascism Will Come to America

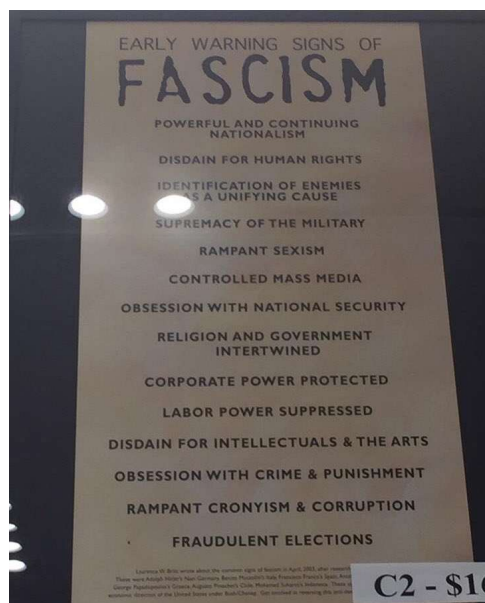


NOT THIS WAY



BUT THIS WAY

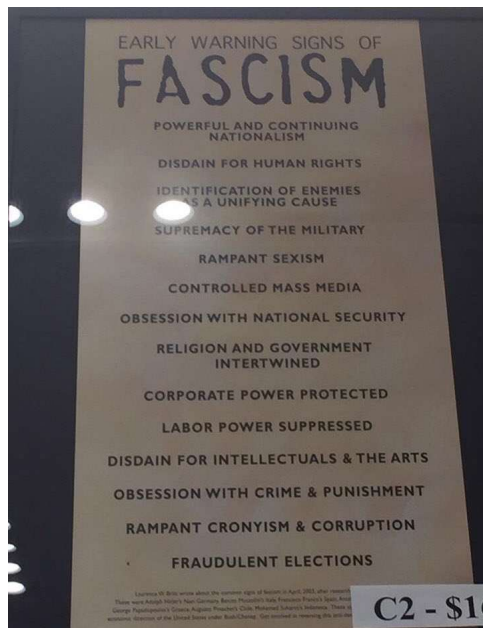
Diagnosis: Symptoms of Fascism



First written by Dr. Lawrence Britt
Free Inquiry magazine: Sprint 2003 ¹

- 1. Powerful and continuing nationalism**
- 2. Disdain for human rights**
- 3. Identification of enemies as a uniting cause**
- 4. Obsession with national security**
- 5. Supremacy of the military**
- 6. Rampant Sexism**
- 7. Controlled Mass media**

Symptoms of Fascism (Ctd.)



- 8. Religion and government intertwined**
- 9. Corporate power protected**
- 10. Labor power suppressed**
- 11. Disdain for intellectuals and the arts**
- 12. Obsession with crime and punishment**
- 13. Rampant cronyism and corruption**
- 14. Fraudulent elections**

1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism

- Fascist regimes tend to make constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs and other paraphernalia. Flags are seen everywhere, as are flag symbols on clothing and in public displays.



1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism



- Trump said protesting NFL players 'shouldn't be in this country.' We should take him seriously. ²

- Trump: Burn the flag, go to jail ³

- Trump Suggests Season Suspension as Punishment for NFL Players Who Protest During Anthem ⁴



2. Disdain for Human Rights

- Because of the fear of enemies and the need for security, the people in fascist regime are persuaded that human rights can be ignored in certain cases because of “need.” The people tend to look the other way or even approve of torture, summary executions, assassinations, long incarcerations of prisoners, etc.



Hitler – 1945



Trump – 2018

Poll: Republicans Approve of Trump's Family Separation Policy ⁵

3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause

- **“The people are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat or foe: racial, ethnic or religious minorities; liberals; communists; socialists, terrorists, etc.”**
- **White supremacy and white nationalism**
- **Fascism is about aggression.**
- **Aggression is a great unifier.**
- **Bad guys are always needed as targets of aggression.**
- **The fascist leader commonly uses FEAR to motivate his base.**
- **Fascist nations often direct their aggression outward toward other nations, hence a highly increased risk of serious war.**

3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause



1938



2018



4. Supremacy of the Military

- “Even when there are widespread domestic problems, the military is given a disproportionate amount of government funding, and the domestic agenda is neglected. Soldiers and military service are glamorized.”



1938



2016

6. Controlled Mass Media

- “Sometimes the media is directly controlled by the government, but in other cases, the media is indirectly controlled by government regulation, or sympathetic media spokespeople and executives. Censorship, especially in war time, is very common.”
- Fascism is about control: of what people think, say and do.
- Information must be controlled: Critical media outlets must be silenced and the people subjected to ceaseless and insidious propaganda imbued with great “truthiness”. (Easy to believe)
- Dissidents must be silenced, either by ridicule, isolation, imprisonment and/or by assassination.

6. Controlled Mass Media

- Former Fox News executive **Bill Shine** joins Trump White House as deputy chief of staff for communications ¹²
- Trump calls 'fake news' the country's biggest enemy ¹³
- **Maddow**: White House edited video and transcripts of Helsinki news conference regarding Putin's support for Trump ¹⁴
- **Alex Jones** loses personal Facebook account for 30 days



6. Controlled Mass Media



Then



Now



Joseph
Goebbels



Sean
Hannity

7. Obsession with National Security

- Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.



Trump declares national emergency on southern border in bid to build wall – Washington Post, Feb. 15, 2109

8. Religion and Government are Intertwined

- Governments in fascist nations tend to use the most common religion in the nation as a tool to manipulate public opinion. Religious rhetoric and terminology is common from government leaders, even when the major tenets of the religion are diametrically opposed to the government's policies or actions.
- **Trump's National Prayer Breakfast speech infused with God-and-country references** ¹⁸

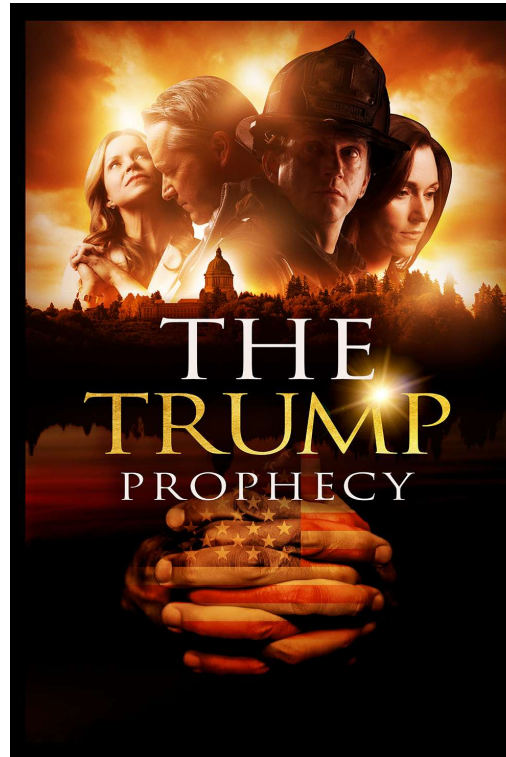


Donald Trump Vowed to Close the Gap Between Church and State (The Johnson Amendment) ¹⁹

8. Religion and Government are Intertwined



'Toxic Christianity': the evangelicals creating champions for Trump
Guardian – Oct. 21, 2018



The Trump Prophecy
A voice of hope – a
movement of prayer

**In theatres October 2-4,
2018**

9. Corporate Power is Protected

- The industrial and business aristocracy of a fascist nation often are the ones who put the government leaders into power, creating a mutually beneficial business/government relationship and power elite.
- **With Kavanaugh, Trump Could Fashion The Most Business-Friendly Supreme Court Since The New Deal. (Who protects labor?)** ²⁰
- **Donald Trump's Cabinet richest in U.S. history, historians say** ²¹
- **Trump names another Goldman Sachs executive to senior administration role (5 Goldman Sachs executives: Steve Mnuchin, James Donovan, Steve Bannon, Gary Cohn, & Dina Powell as of March 2017)** ²²
- **How the Republican tax bill benefits the rich, according to government analysis** ²³

Corporate Power is Protected



Wilber Ross: \$2.5 Billion



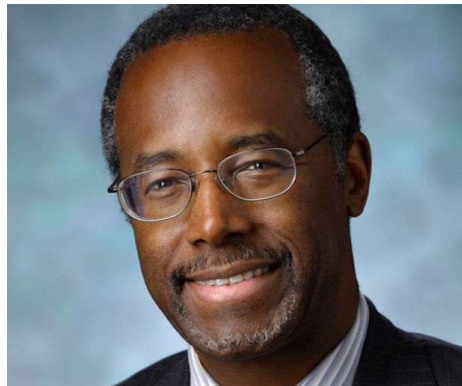
**Betsy DeVos: \$1 Billion
Amway**



**Steve Mnuchin: \$385 Million
Goldman Sachs**



**Rex Tillerson: \$300 Million
Exxon Mobil**



**Ben Carson: \$22 Million
Kellogg, Costco, publishing**

10. Labor Power is Suppressed

- Because the organizing power of labor is the only real threat to a fascist government, labor unions are either eliminated entirely, or are severely suppressed .

Trump Moves to Ease the Firing of Federal Workers ²⁴

CIVIL RIGHTS SUITS PLAGUE CORPORATION RUN BY LABOR PICK ANDREW PUZDER ²⁵



11. Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts

- Fascist nations tend to promote and tolerate open hostility to higher education, and academia. It is not uncommon for professors and other academics to be censored or even arrested. Free expression in the arts is openly attacked, and governments often refuse to fund the arts.
- **700+ Employees Have Left the EPA Under Trump: Loss of Scientists, Staffers Undermines Agency's Purpose** ²⁶
- **The Trump Administration's War on Science Agencies Threatens the Nation's Health and Safety** (*The Scientific American*) ²⁷
- **Trump Administration Proposes Cuts to NEA, NEH Funding in 2019 Budget** ²⁸
- **Scott Walker Is Undermining Academic Freedom at the University of Wisconsin** ²⁹
- **Trump's CDC directive isn't just a war on words. It's a war on science. (7 forbidden words and phrases)** ³⁰

12. Obsession with Crime and Punishment

- Under fascist regimes, the police are given almost limitless power to enforce laws. The people are often willing to overlook police abuses and even forego civil liberties in the name of patriotism. There is often a national police force with virtually unlimited power in fascist nations.
- **Trump tells cops they should rough people up more during arrests**
“Please, don’t be too nice,” he said, to laughter from the crowd. ³¹
- **Americans blame law-breaking parents, not Trump, for border separation** ³²
- **Crowd chants 'lock her up' at Trump's CPAC speech** ³³

13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption

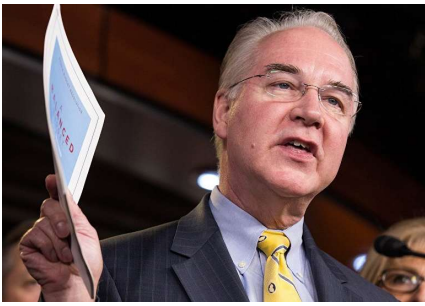


- “Fascist regimes almost always are governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each other to government positions and use governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability. It is not uncommon in fascist regimes for national resources and even treasures to be appropriated or even outright stolen by government leaders.”



- ***E.P.A. Chief Scott Pruitt Resigns Under a Cloud of Ethics Scandals***³⁵
- **Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump made at least \$82 million in outside income last year while serving in the White House, filings show**³⁴
- **Donald Trump Reports He’s Getting Rich as President**³⁶

13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption



***Health Secretary Tom Price Resigns After Drawing Ire for Chartered Flights
NYT – Sept. 29, 2017***



***Facing ethics violation, Wilbur Ross says he didn't mean to file inaccurate financial disclosures
Washington Post – Feb. 19, 2019***



***Ryan Zinke, Face of Trump Environmental Rollbacks, Is Leaving Interior Department
NYT – Dec. 15, 2018***



***Trump Foundation Will Dissolve, Accused of 'Shocking Pattern of Illegality'
NYT – Dec. 18, 2018***

14. Fraudulent Elections

- “Sometimes elections in fascist nations are a complete sham. Other times elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates, use of legislation to control voting numbers or political district boundaries, and manipulation of the media. Fascist nations also typically use their judiciaries to manipulate or control elections.”
- **It appears that Trump accepted Russian (and other outside) help to throw the 2016 election.** *(sources too numerous to mention here)*
- **TRUMP JOKES ABOUT BEING PRESIDENT FOR 16 YEARS, ADDS ‘I’M NOT LOOKING TO DO IT, UNLESS YOU WANT TO DO IT’** ³⁷
- **In a new poll, half of Republicans say they would support postponing the 2020 election if Trump proposed it** ³⁸
- **Trump says he will accept election result - if he wins** ⁴⁰
- **House GOP refuses to renew election security funding as Democrats fume over Russian interference** ³⁹

The Four Components of Fascism

- **The Hierarchy**
 - The top of the fascist system is a male hierarchy, with a tiny minority of *order-givers*, headed by the “Great Leader” or dictator at the top.
 - The *order-takers* support the “Great Leader” uncritically and they give him his power.
- **The Money – Trump’s wealthy donors**
- **The Propaganda – Fox News**
- **The Complicit Supporters -- GOP supporters in House & Senate**

The Hierarchy:



Hitler – May, 1938



Trump – August 2017

The Order Givers:



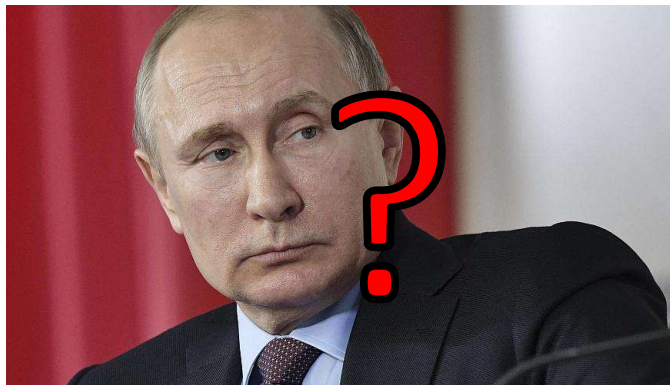
Stephen Miller



John Bolton



Jared Kushner



***F.B.I. Opened Inquiry
Into Whether Trump
Was Secretly Working
on Behalf of Russia
NYT – Jan. 11, 2019***

The Order-Takers

Where do Trump's Supporters Come From?

- The label I have assigned to the American fascist order-takers is “Trump’s base”. This is a description of their roles, not a put-down.
- There are seeds of fascism in every developed country. (Wilhelm Reich) (Infection metaphor)
- The fascist base is commonly drawn from 3 sources: people who fear economic insecurity (globalization & robotics); rapid demographic change and often, terrorism. (Paxton) (These are valid concerns.)
- Many fascist followers were conditioned to accept authoritarianism as children at home, school, the workplace and at church.
- Many of the fascist followers are less well educated and are not trained to think critically.

The Order-Takers

The Irrational Nature of Trump's Base

- **Trump's base has a lower standard of proof: "It's true because it comes from a trusted authority figure."**
- **The political convictions of Trump's base are almost entirely irrational. DO NOT mistake them for having rational political motivations.**
- **Many Trump supporters exhibit the classic signs of brainwashing: uncritical belief of whatever their leader tells them, regardless of self-contradictory, illogical or non-factual content.**
- **They parrot what their leader tells them and will not be persuaded by rational argument.**
- **When criticized or challenged, they will resort to irrational defense of their beliefs, and sometimes character assassination.**
- **Some of them are willing to resort to violence if urged by their leader.**

The Order-Takers

The Irrational Nature of Trump's Base



The Order-Takers

Some of them are willing to resort to violence



Ex-Coast Guard lieutenant ordered held for 14 days while government weighs terrorism-related charges in his planning of widespread terrorist attack

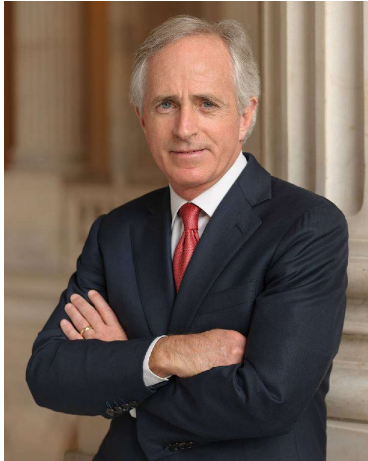
Christopher P. Hasson



Pipe bomb suspect arrested in Florida after FBI matched DNA, fingerprints

Cesar Sayoc

Cult-like Nature of GOP



- **"We're in a strange place. It's becoming a cultish thing, isn't it?" the Tennessee Republican told reporters. "It's not a good place for any party to have a cult-like situation as it relates to a President that happens to be purportedly of the same party." -- Bob Corker ⁴⁴**



A CULT EXPERT FINDS FAMILIAR PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR IN TRUMP'S GOP

What do you call an organization where total loyalty to a charismatic but volatile leader is strictly enforced? (Interview with Janja Lalich) ⁴¹

The Complicit:

The House has been Infected by Authoritarian Republicans

They are not interested in governing; they want unchallenged power.



**Jim Jordan—
Member of House
Freedom Caucus**



**Mark Meadows –
Founding member
of House Freedom
Caucus**



**Devin Nunes –
Politicizing the
House Intelligence
Committee**



Steve King – R- Iowa

The Complicit:

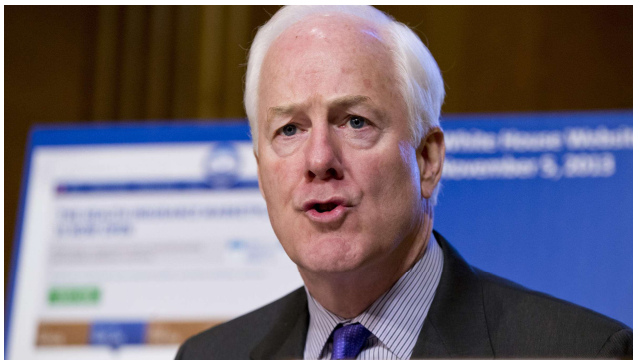
The Senate has been Infected by Authoritarian Republicans
They are not interested in governing; they want unchallenged power.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell



Senator Lindsey Graham – North Carolina



Senator John Cornyn – Texas



Senator James Inhofe -- Oklahoma

The Money:

Key Donors are funding the authoritarian movement

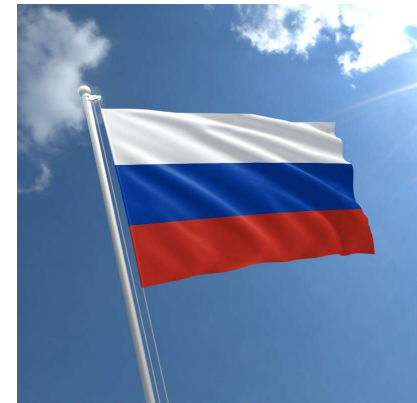
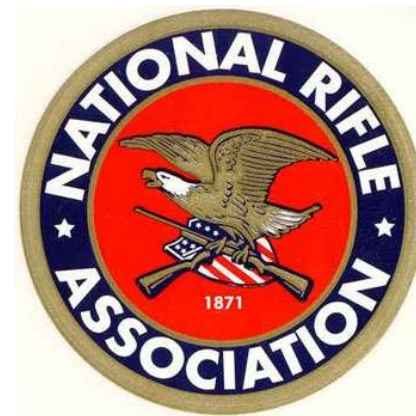
- **Koch brothers and Koch Industries**
- **Robert and Rebekah Mercer**
 - Rebekah Mercer, the billionaire backer of Bannon and Trump, chooses sides ⁴³
 - Cambridge Analytica, the shady data firm that might be a key Trump-Russia link, explained ⁴⁵
- **Sheldon Adelson**
 - Follow The Money: Three Billionaires Paved Way For Trump's Iran Deal Withdrawal ⁴⁶



The Money:

Key Donors are funding Trump's fascist movement

- Bernard Marcus, Co-Founder of Home Depot
 - **Marcus, Bernard** ⁴⁷
- NRA
 - **Web of elite Russians met with NRA execs during 2016 campaign**
(McClatchy report) ⁴⁸
- Russia
 - **How Putin's oligarchs funneled millions into GOP campaigns** ⁴⁹



The Propaganda: *FOX – Trump’s “Ministry of Truth”*

- Content is kept simple and brief – on-going stream-of-consciousness grips viewers’ minds and doesn’t let go
- High emotional content – designed to appeal to viewers’ emotions, not intellect
- Content contains high “truthiness” – has the appearance of being plausible, truthful and reliable.
- Content is provocative, designed to arouse & direct fear, anger and aggression toward designated scapegoats
- Contents provide a megaphone for the Great Leader
- Fox News Has Completed Its Transformation Into Trump TV ⁵⁰



The Stages of Fascism

- **The birth of fascism**
 - Fascism is nascent in every industrialized country (Wilhelm Reich). The “germs” of fascism are everywhere, waiting for the country to get economically, socially and politically distressed.
- **Securing a place in politics**
 - Fox News
 - Koch brothers and economist James Buchanan – “Democracy in Chains” – Nancy MacLean (money and planning)
 - Rise of the Tea Party and House Freedom Caucus

The Stages of Fascism

- **Gaining Power – The 4 conditions**
 - Political polarization
 - Deadlock
 - Mass mobilization against external and internal enemies
 - Complicity by the existing elites (Paxton)
- **What it was not: “coup d'état, election or solo triumph**
- **The “Pre-Fascist Crisis”**
 - The Reichstag Fire

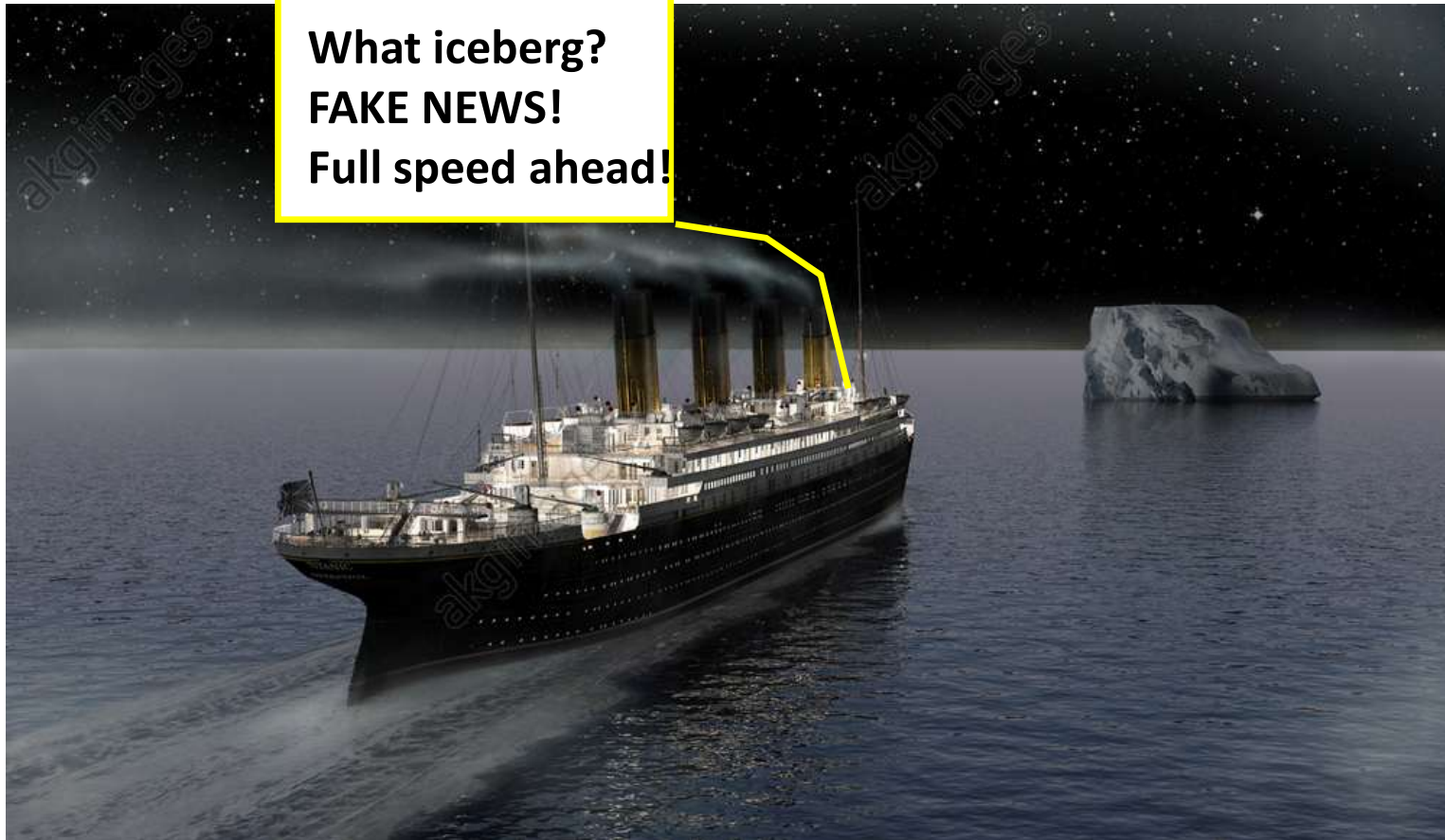


The Tactics of Fascism

- **Destroy the shared concept of reality (Trump's flipping the truth)**
 - Trump's statement to the Vets
- **Collaborating with established political parties**
- **Lying and deception**
- **Secrecy**
 - Trump administration officials dismissed benefits of national monuments ⁵¹
 - Top intel chief: I don't know what Trump, Putin discussed in meeting ⁵²
- **Intimidation and bullying**
- **Extortion (Attempted extortion of the DOJ by Devin Nunes, et. al.)**
- **Character assassination**
- **Violence**

What if Trump had been the captain?

**What iceberg?
FAKE NEWS!
Full speed ahead!**



Damage to Our Democracy

- **Seriously Compromised National Security**

- President Trump went to 'extraordinary lengths' to hide details of Putin meetings, report says -- USA Today Jan. 13, 2019





Damage to Our Democracy

- **Politicization of Intelligence and Law Enforcement**
 - Trump's war on the DOJ, FBI and the Mueller investigation
 - Firing of FBI and DOJ officials
- **Undermining the Separation of Powers**
 - Trump declares "National Emergency" in order get around Congress
- **Increased Chance of Major War**
 - 'NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN,' Trump tweets in warning to Iran's Rouhani ⁵³



Damage to Our Democracy

- **Denial of climate change**

- **WHITE HOUSE TO SET UP PANEL TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE CONSENSUS, OFFICIALS SAY -- Washington Post, Feb. 24**

- **Institutionalized and widespread corruption**

- **Undermined credibility of public elections**

- **BALLOT TAMPERING HEARING BEGINS IN NORTH CAROLINA -- Amy Gardner | Washington Post**

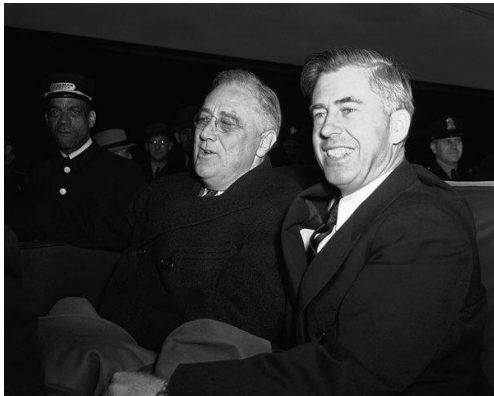
Damage to Our Democracy

- **Attempt to Destroy Public Education**
- **Rising Polarization and Hate Crimes**
- **Government-run “detention centers” -- indefinite and secret detention of minorities and dissenters without due process**



The Problem is Real and Urgent

- **Warnings by Henry Wallace and Henry Scott Wallace**



“Their final objective toward which all their deceit is directed is to capture political power so that, using the power of the state and the power of the market simultaneously, they may keep the common man in eternal subjection.”

“American fascism will not be really dangerous until there is a purposeful coalition between the cartelists, the deliberate poisoners of public information and those who stand for the KKK type of demagogue ”

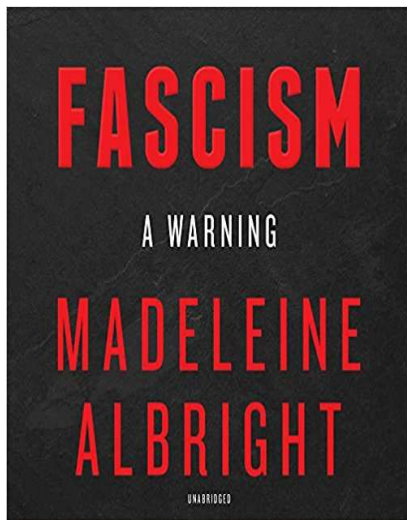
--- Warning by Henry Wallace in April 9, 1944 opinion piece in the New York Times



--- Warning repeated by grandson Henry Scott Wallace in May 12, 2017 opinion piece in the New York Times ⁶⁷

Warnings by Madeline Albright and Senator Jeff Flake

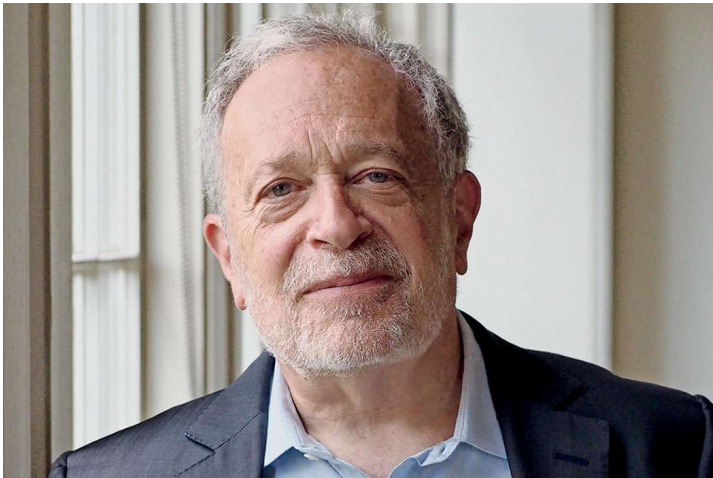
- These are **NOT** normal times – this is not business as usual



‘Our democracy will not last’: Jeff Flake's speech comparing Trump to Stalin, annotated January 17, 2018 (Youtube) ⁷⁴

Other Warning Voices

Robert Reich



“Trump: The American Fascist” ⁶⁸

**Robert Kagan: Prominent
GOP Neoconservative**



“This is how fascism comes to America” ⁶⁹

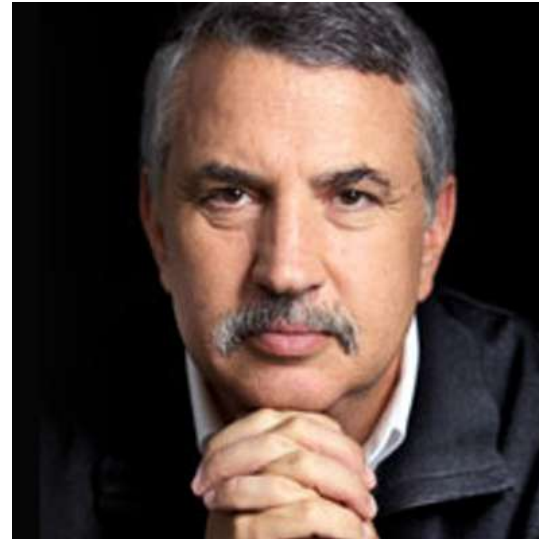
Other Warning Voices

**David Frumm: Senior Editor
at the Atlantic**



“How to Build an Autocracy” ⁷⁰

**Thomas Friedman: Columnist for
New York Times**



**Sounding Code Red: Electing the Trump
Resistance ⁷¹**

Other Warning Voices

**George Will: Columnist
for Washington Post**



**“Vote against the GOP
this November”⁷²**

**Mark Sanford: Former GOP
Congressman**



**Trumpism Is a ‘Cancerous Growth’ in
the Republican Party⁷³**

It can and IS happening here!

If our democracy collapses, it will be because of one or more of the following 5 reasons:

1. Ignorance - Few people really understand how democracy works and how important it is.
2. Disbelief – “It can’t happen here. Therefore it ISN’T happening here!”
3. Lack of concern – “Oh, someone else is going to take care of it. Not my job.”
4. Opposition is not focused and united.
5. Cultural susceptibility

How Do We Respond?

This is a Patrick Henry Moment



“Peace for our time”



“Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace — but there is no peace. The war is actually begun!”

How Do We Respond? (Urgency!)

- The nation is in a de-facto Constitutional crisis and national security crisis. We are under attack from within and without!
- This is the moral equivalent of war. There is no peace. Get used to it.
- This is a struggle for power. We must rescue our American democracy from the hands of these American fascists AND the Russians.
- A firm unyielding response is needed. There must be no compromise with those who do not themselves compromise.
- There is **NO Back-up**. If our American democracy fails, there is nobody to come to our rescue!

Self Affirmation



- Reaffirm clearly who we are and what we are about
- Meet often, face-to-face in social functions and demonstrating to reaffirm our solidarity
- America is an IDEA, not “blood and soil”.
- All men(and women) are created equal. (Declaration of Independence)
- The purpose of government is to secure and defend human rights. (Declaration)
- We are the REAL “culture of life”



Resistance at the State and Federal Level

- **Democratic Controlled House**
 - The most important barrier currently protecting American rule of law
- **The Mueller Investigation**
 - It **MUST** be completed and made public
- **The 2020 Elections**
 - We **MUST** flip the Senate and the Presidency
- **Litigation:**
 - Bob Ferguson and other states' Attorneys-General have filed many lawsuits to prevent or impede the Trump regime's policies
- **State and Local Level Legislation**
 - State of WA has taken steps to continue Medicaid in case of Federal failure

Organize, Organize, Organize!

- The apparent strategy of the Trump regime is to use the Trump base to **bulldoze** the 2020 election and reinstitute one-party rule.
- We need to be united around common well-understood core goals.
- We ought to be a disciplined team where everybody knows their job and when and where to do it. (Sail boat metaphor)
- Get and stay informed – (Avoid the Fake Media)
- Use all peaceful democratic means at our disposal: pressure your MOC; Vote!; Peaceful public protest.
- ***“Never, never, never give up.” -- Winston Churchill***

Some Suggested Tactics

- **Do not engage in rebutting the fascists' claims and lies. We play right into their hands when we do so. Engaging with their assertions legitimatizes their claims.**
- **We must “frame the discussion”. Let’s use our language, our words and our stories; i.e. “children in cages”, not “illegal immigrants”.**
- **Respect Trump followers as fellow citizens. Continue to listen to them. Don’t give in to hate, contempt or a patronizing attitude.**
- **Understand their moral values: “Moral Politics” – George Lakoff**

Spread the Word

What's in this for everybody?

- **Democracy-loving Americans**: The irrational Trump regime is dismantling our democracy, endangering our liberties, and greatly increasing the risk of catastrophic war.
- **Women's Issues**: Reproductive rights, access to abortion and contraception; separation of parents and children; sexual harassment and pay inequality
- **Millennial Voters**: They want progress on climate change, need college tuition debt reduced, and establish a living wage.
- **Older Americans**: Social Security and Medicare benefits are being threatened.
- **Hispanics and immigrants**: Trump regime rips Hispanic children away from parents; ICE raids rip people away from jobs, homes and families, spreading terror in Hispanic neighborhoods.
- **LGBTQ Issue**: Rights and the safety of LGBTQ citizens are endangered.

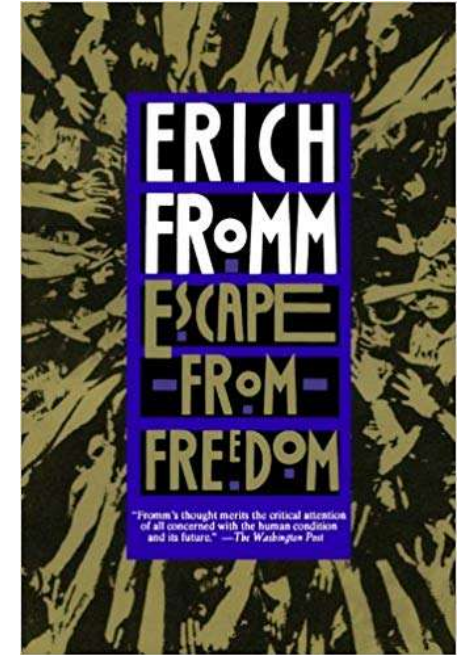
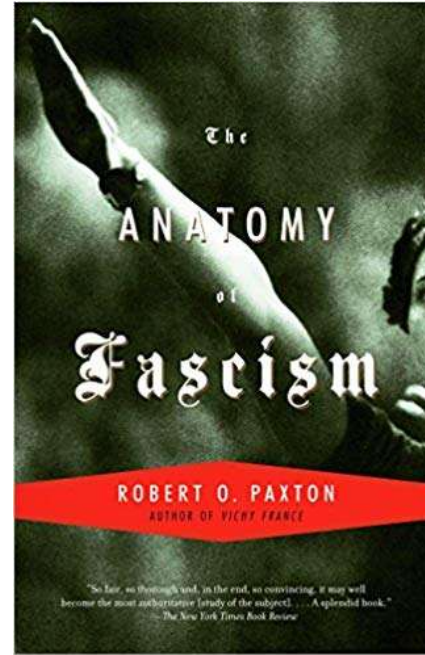
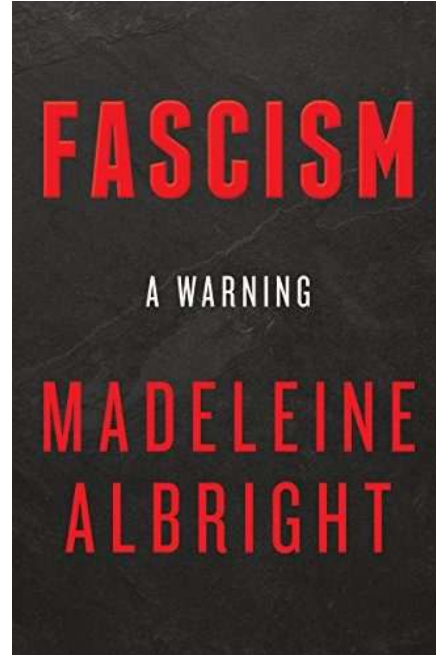
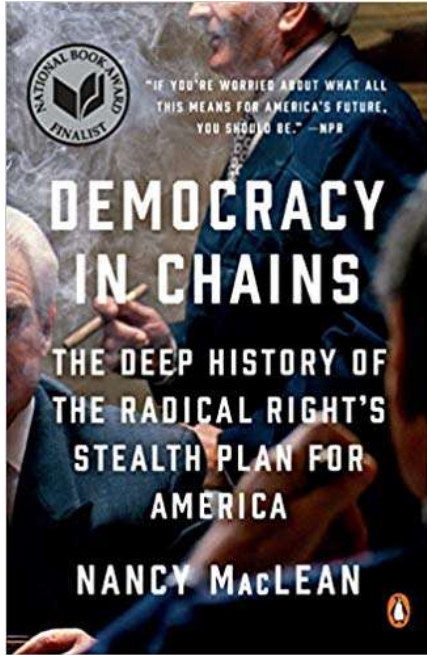
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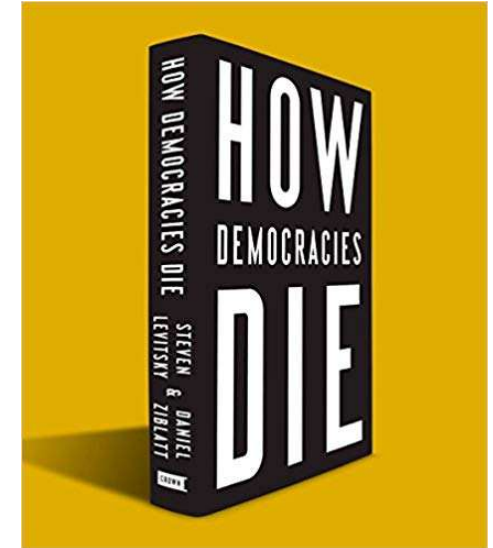
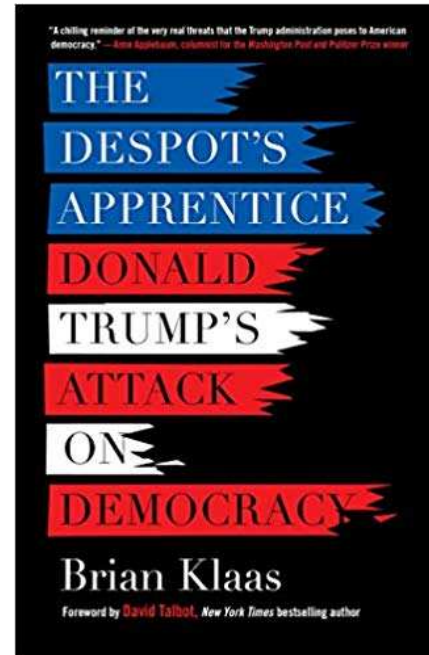
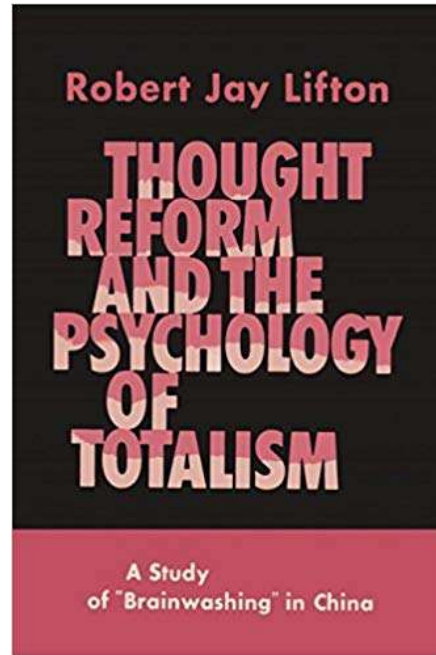
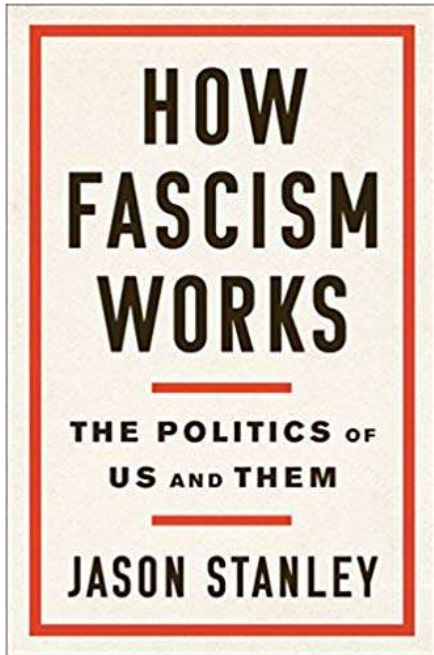
- **Union workers**: Trump regime, now aided by the Supreme Court and large corporations, threaten to completely undo unions and worker rights.
- **African-Americans**: Black people are already unsafe in their own country. The Trump regime will make this situation much worse.
- **Farmers**: Trump's trade war is endangering American agricultural exports; family farms are threatened.
- **Muslims and minority religions**: Trump regime is making America a more dangerous place for Muslim Americans.
- **School Safety Issue**: Rights of parents and their children to be safe in the schools from gun violence.

Recognizing the new form of warfare

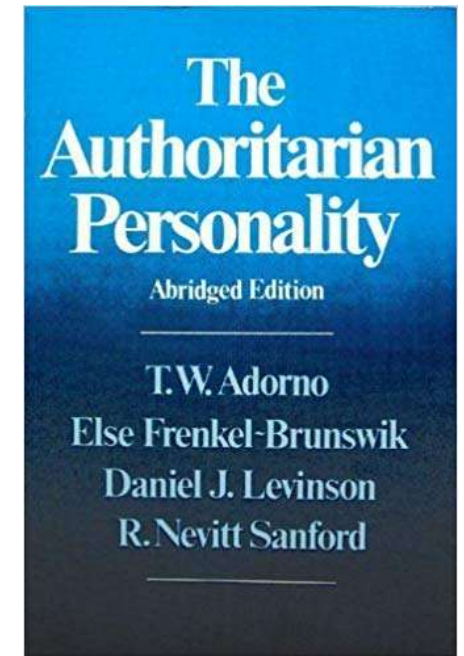
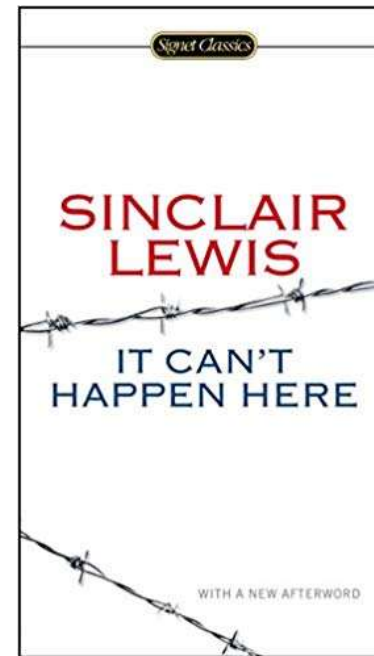
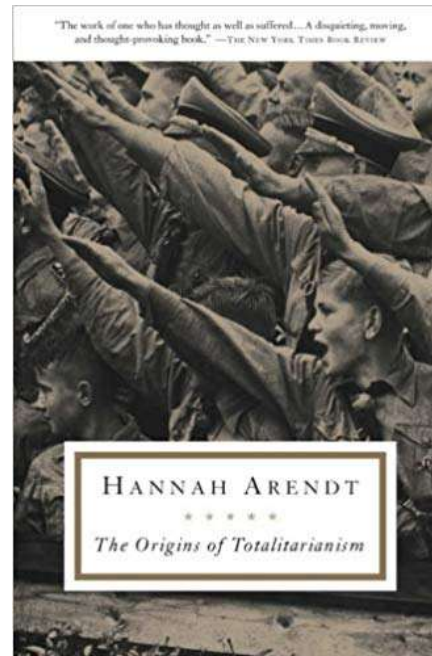
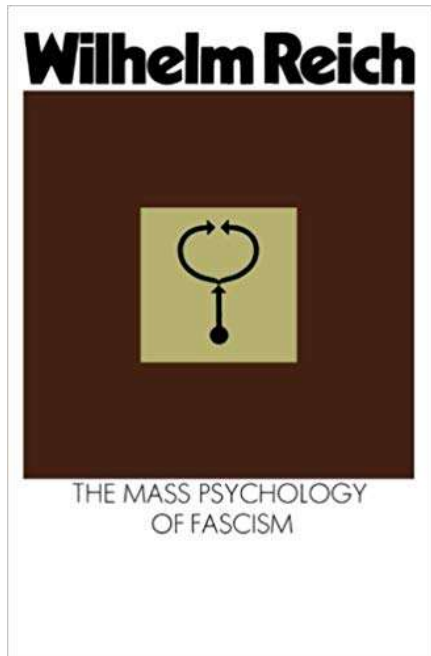
- **This is cyber warfare, not a shooting war.**
- **Public infrastructure is at risk.**
- **Election integrity is under serious threat.**
- **Intellectual property is at risk.**
- **This is a struggle for people's hearts and minds. (Social media, shared world view is threatened.)**
- **Surveillance; control of personal communication; access to bank accounts; access to honest news reporting, etc.**
- **Orwell's world of 1984**
- **We, the people, are the front line.**
- **Freedom itself is at stake!**



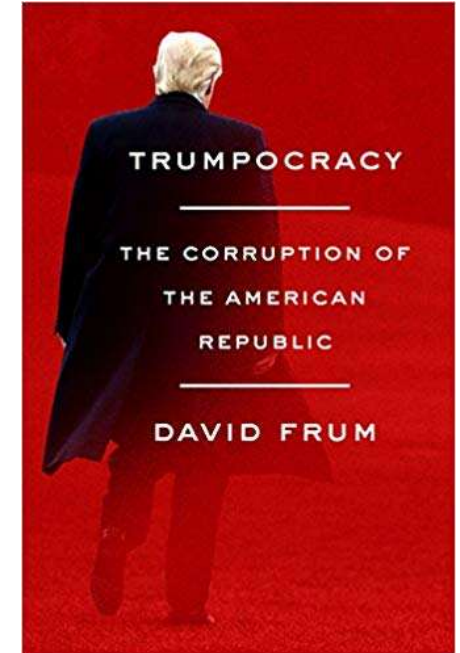
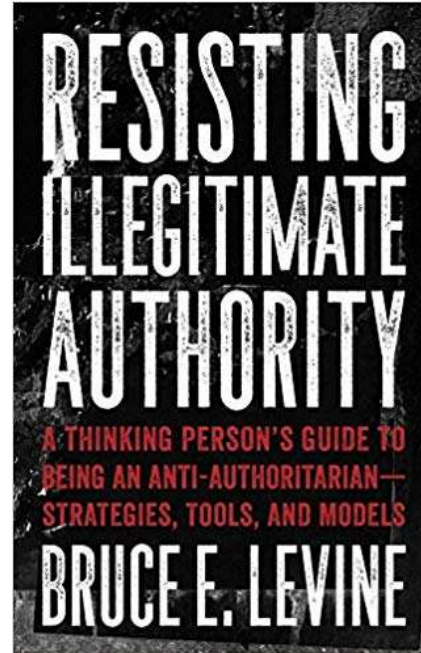
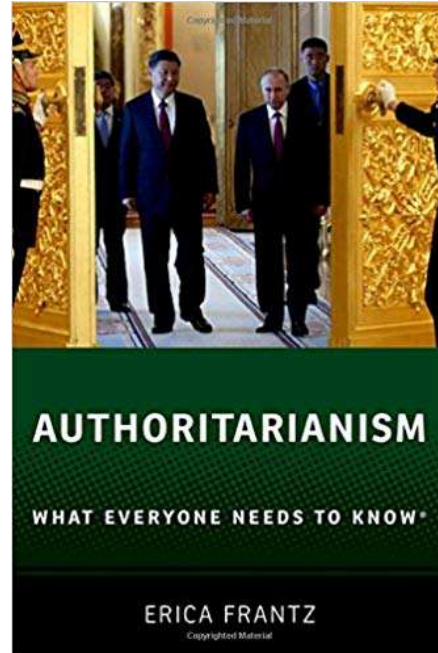
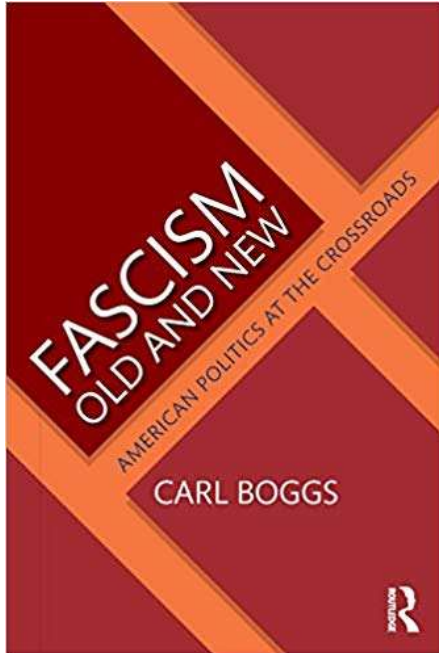
Books about Fascism



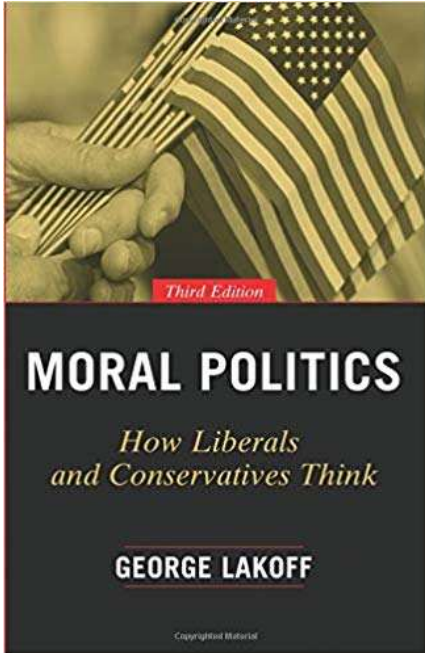
Books about Fascism



Books about Fascism



Books about Fascism



Books about Fascism

Web Sites

- Protect Democracy <https://protectdemocracy.org/>
- Freedom House <https://freedomhouse.org/>

What Can We Expect?

(if Trump's regime continues)

- **Collapse of the Rule of Law (Constitutional Crisis)**
 - Failure or dismissal of the Mueller investigation, resulting Constitutional Crisis
 - *Polish Crisis Deepens as Judges Condemn Their Own Court* ⁵⁶
- **Suppression and criminalization of the media**
 - **Comey Memo: Trump Floated Idea Of Jailing Journalists To Make Them 'Talk'** ⁵⁷
 - Trump rips into 'The Amazon Washington Post' after report that he's unhappy with North Korea talks ⁵⁸
- **Increased Chance of Major War**
 - John Bolton wants regime change in Iran, and so does the cult that paid him ⁷⁵
- **Suppression & criminalization of dissent**
 - Trump thinks not clapping for him is 'treasonous' ⁵⁹
 - *Trump Weighs Stripping Security Clearances From Officials Who Criticized Him* ⁶⁰

What Can We Expect? (Ctd)

- **Increasingly rigged elections**
 - *'Warning Lights Are Blinking Red,' Top Intelligence Officer Says of Russian Attacks* ⁵⁴
 - **Voter suppression and gerrymandering continues**
- **Packed courts and the Brett Kavanaugh nomination**
- **End of legal abortion**
 - **Why We Are Leaving the G.O.P.** ⁶¹
- **End of access to contraception**
 - **GOP attacks on birth control** ⁶²
- **End of Social Security and Medicare**
 - **D.C. Republicans Pass Vukmir and Nicholson-Backed Social Security and Medicare Cuts** ⁶³

What Can We Expect?

- **End to Public Education; replaced by privatized education**
- **Increased government surveillance**
 - **ACLU demands records of social media surveillance under Trump ⁶⁴**
- **End of unions and collective bargaining; suppression of workers' rights**
- **Increasingly violent suppression of peaceful protest**
 - **Anti-Trump protesters risk 60 years in jail. Is dissent a crime? ⁶⁵**
- **Censored Internet**
- **Politicization of law enforcement, i.e. political prisoners**
- **Possible declaration of martial law**
 - **Trump's Road to American Martial Law (*NYT opinion piece by Roger Cohen*) ⁶⁶**

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