

Going to Extremes: Socialism & Fascism

John Donnelly

Holland Professional Club

04/22/2021



A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a raised fist, rendered in dark red and black. The fist is the central focus, set against a background of radiating lines in alternating red and white, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The overall aesthetic is reminiscent of mid-20th-century political posters.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

What is Socialism?

- Nationalization of key industries: Utilities, Energy, Airlines
- Greater income equality: Higher taxes on the wealthy
- Free National Healthcare
- Free education
- Greater regulation of markets



Communism vs. Socialism

- Private property eliminated under Communism vs. curtailed under Socialism
- Communism is achieved via violent revolution vs. Socialism via Democratic processes
- Modern Example: China as a Communist/Capitalist hybrid
 - Dictatorship with heavy Nationalization + some private businesses



Is the Democratic Party Socialist?

NO

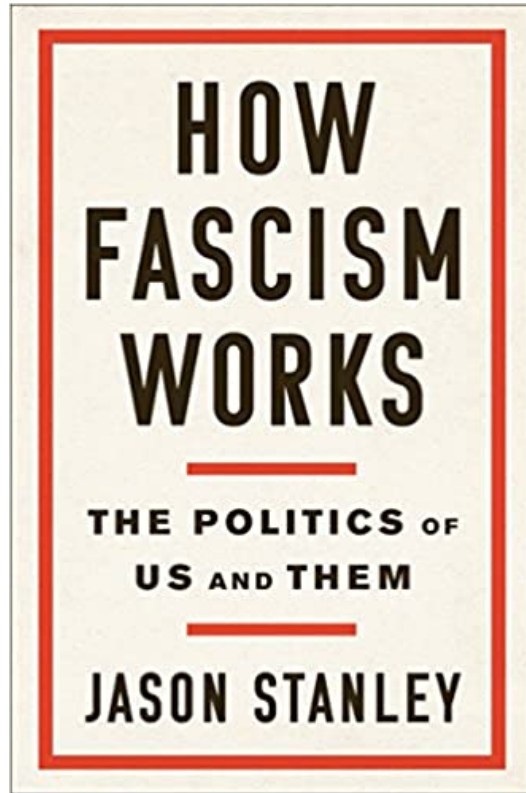
- Some Democrats advocate policies supported by Socialists & other Leftists
- Key missing ingredient: *No Nationalizations*
- Similar to UK's Labour Party & Canada's Liberal Party
- The Democratic Party is a Left – not Socialist - Party



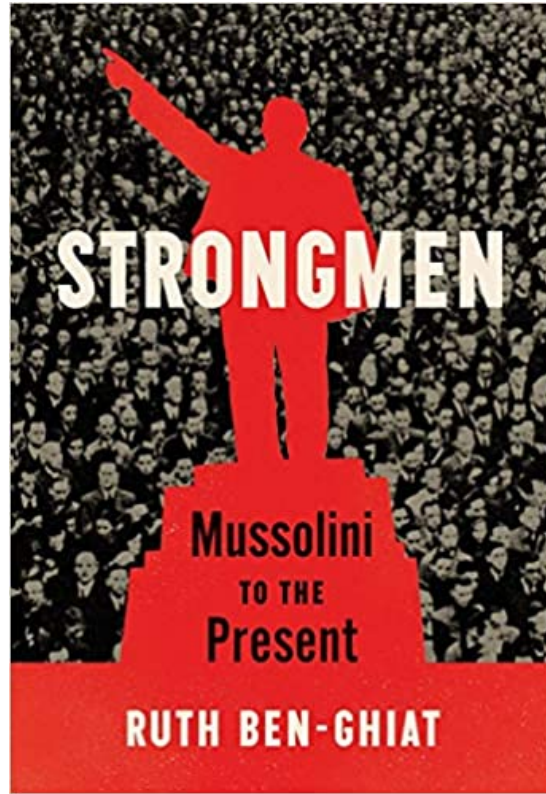
The image features three headless mannequins, likely representing a crowd or a group of people, positioned against a red brick wall. Each mannequin has its right arm raised, with the hand open and fingers spread, in a gesture commonly associated with fascist ideology. The mannequins are wearing light-colored, long-sleeved shirts with a plaid pattern at the collar. The overall color scheme is dominated by the red of the brick wall and the dark tones of the mannequins.

WHAT IS FASCISM?

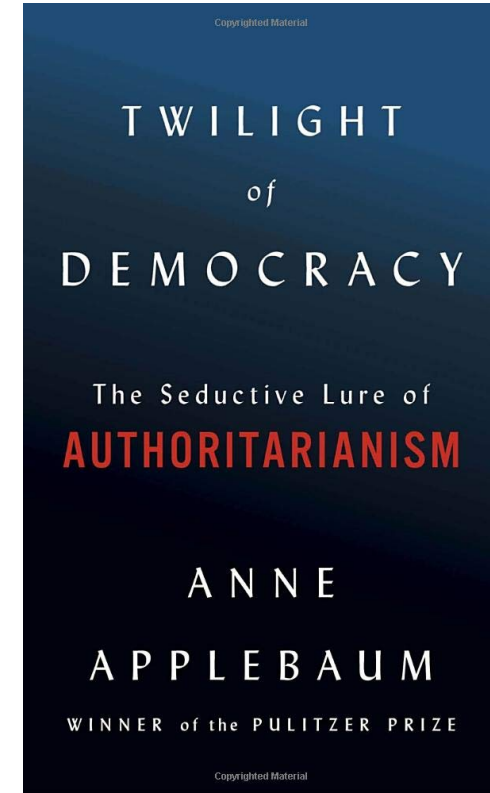
Book Recommendations



(2018)



(2020)



(2020)



What is Fascism?

Fascism is a method to win & maintain power

Fascism is **not** a Political Ideology
Political Ideologies are *LBJ Liberalism* or *Thatcher Conservatism*



The Key to Fascism is HOW Power is Seized

- Focus on *Mythic Past*
- Make dominant ethnic group feel like victims
- Destroy truth/promote conspiracy theories
- Value "pure" rural areas over "corrupt" cities
- Develop cult of the Leader - only the Leader can solve critical problems



What Do Fascists Do Once in Power?

- Weaken/destroy Democracy guardrails in pursuit of Absolute Power
 - Guardrails: Opposition Parties, Media, Judiciary
- Soft Fascism: *some* opposition
- Hard Fascism: opposition *destroyed*
- Hard Fascist Leader can do anything: Corruption, Genocide, etc.



Fascist Leaders in Recent History



Mussolini – Italy (90%)



Hitler – Germany (100%)



Putin – Russia (80%)



Fascist Leaders in Recent History



Orban – Hungary (60%)



Erdogan – Turkey (60%)



Bolsonaro – Brazil (30%)



Focus on the Mythic Past

“Fascist politics invokes a pure *mythic past* tragically destroyed... such a glorious past has been lost by the *humiliation* brought on by the globalism and liberal cosmopolitanism”

“The function of the mythic past is to harness the emotion of *nostalgia* to authoritarianism”

“The Fascist mythic past exists to aid in changing the present

-Jason Stanley



Focus on the Mythic Past

“We have created our myth. The myth is a faith, a passion. It is *not necessary for it to be a reality*. And to this myth, this greatness, we subordinate everything”

-Mussolini (1922)



Focus on the Mythic Past

"A people lives happily in the present and the future so long as it recognizes its past and the greatness of its ancestors. We want to make our people *proud* again of our history"

-Himmler (1936)



Make Dominant Ethnic Groups Feel Like Victims

“Fascism is a loyalty to tribe, ethnic identity, religion, or in a word, nation... with the goal of maintaining a position at the top of the power hierarchy”

“Promulgating a great mythical past works to create unreasonable expectations and when not met, leads to victimhood”

-Jason Stanley



Make Dominant Ethnic Groups Feel Like Victims

“The Fascist leader employs a sense of collective victimhood to create a sense of *group identity*”

-Jason Stanley



Make Dominant Ethnic Groups Feel Like Victims



“The *ignorance of the broad masses* about the inner nature of the Jew make the people an easy victim for this Jewish campaign of lies”

-Hitler (*Mein Kampf*, 1925)



Make Dominant Ethnic Groups Feel Like Victims

“A group of Europe’s intellectual & political leaders wishes to create a mixed society in Europe, which within a few generations, will utterly transform the cultural & ethnic composition of our continent – and its *Christian identity*”

-Orban (2017)



Destroy Truth & Promote Conspiracy Theories

“Fascist politics exchanges reality for the pronouncements of a single individual. Regular and repeated *obvious lying* is part of the process by which fascist politics destroys the information space”

“Conspiracy theories are a critical mechanism used to delegitimize the mainstream media. Fascist politicians accuse them of bias for failing to cover false conspiracies”

“Fascist politics transforms the news from a conduit of information into a spectacle with the strongman as the star”

-Jason Stanley



Destroy Truth & Promote Conspiracy Theories

“The whole existence of the Jewish people is based on a continuous lie. This is shown incomparably in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion – so infinitely hated by the Jews. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* screams and moans every week that the Protocols are a forgery. This is the best proof that they are authentic”

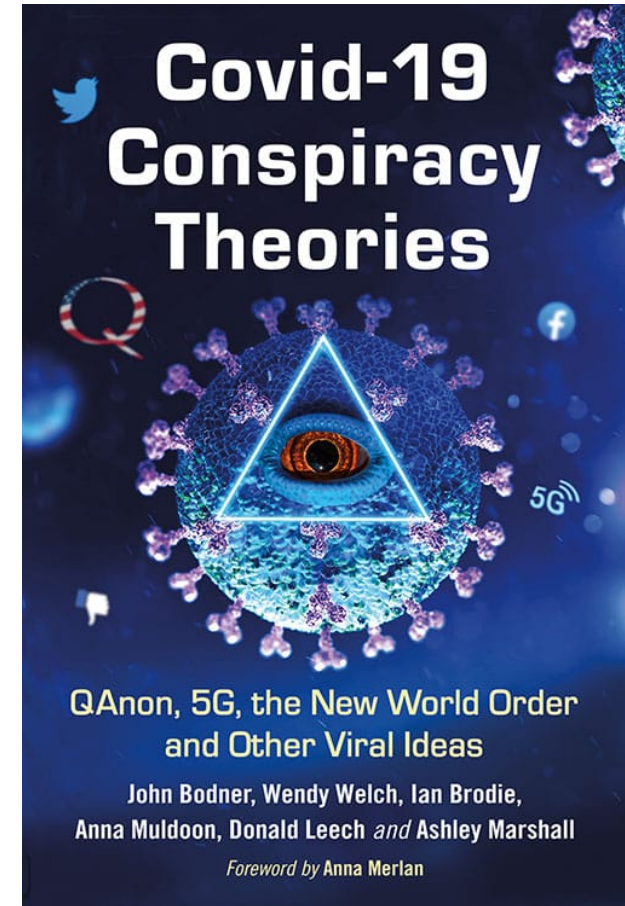
-Hitler (Mein Kampf, 1925)



Destroy Truth & Promote Conspiracy Theories

“Coronavirus is making us wake up once more to the Communist nightmare. The *Communavirus* has arrived”

-Bolsonaro’s Foreign Minister (4/20/20)



Value Pure Rural Areas Over Corrupt Cities

“Cities, to the Fascist imagination, are the source of **corrupting culture**, often produced by Jews and immigrants, the countryside is pure.”

“In Fascism the city is a place where members of the nation go to age and die, childless, surrounded by a vast horde of immigrants **breeding out of control.**”

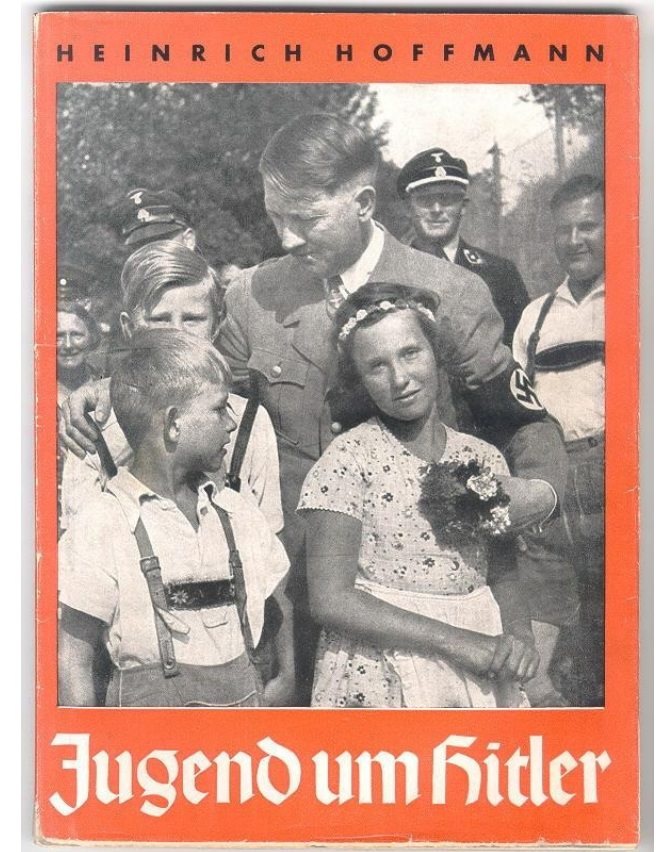
- *Jason Stanley*



Value Pure Rural Areas Over Corrupt Cities

“I hated the mixture of races displayed in Vienna. I hated the **motley collection** of Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, and above all, the ever-present fungoid growth of Jews.”

- *Hitler (Mein Kampf, 1925)*

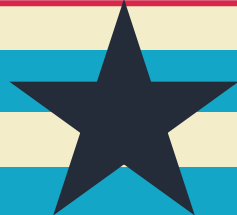


Value Pure Rural Areas Over Corrupt Cities



“At a certain point the city starts growing in a **diseased, pathological** way, not through its own people, but through immigrants.”

- *Mussolini (1925)*



Develop Cult of the Leader/Only Leader Can Solve Critical Problems

“Fascism is the cult of the leader who promises national restoration in the face of humiliation brought on by supposed Communists, minorities, and immigrants who are posing a threat to the **character and history of the nation.**”

“The leader says that only he can solve it, and all his political opponents are enemies and traitors.”

- *Jason Stanley*



Develop Cult of the Leader/Only Leader Can Solve Critical Problems

“Many strongmen have entered office with experience in mass communications. Mussolini was a journalist. Hitler took voice and hypnotism lessons in the 1920s. Berlusconi had long experience with TV.”

“Having **direct communication with the public** is key to maintaining personality cults. Propaganda strategies like rallies have remained remarkably the same.”

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat



Develop Cult of the Leader/Only Leader Can Solve Critical Problems



“I am responsible for the fate of the German Nation and I am therefore the **supreme judge** of the German people.”

- *Hitler (1934)*



Weaken/Destroy Democratic Guardrails: Soft vs. Hard Fascism

- Mussolini (90%): 30k followers march on Rome, newspapers censored, political opponents killed, no longer accountable to Parliament
- Hitler (100%): top priority was control of Interior ministry, opposition newspapers shut down, emergency powers after Reichstag fire, opposition parties outlawed, soldiers take oath swearing “unconditional obedience” to Hitler, *not* the German government



Weaken/Destroy Democratic Guardrails: Soft vs. Hard Fascism

- Putin (90%): eliminate opposition media via friendly oligarchs taking over opposition TV & newspapers, kill opposition journalists and politicians, voter approved extension of term limits allowing him to stay in power until 2036
- Orban (60%): eliminate opposition media via friends of government taking over opposition TV and newspapers, bogus opposition parties, regulations make it difficult for pro-democracy NGOs to work, arrests for anti-government social media posts



Weaken/Destroy Democratic Guardrails: Soft vs. Hard Fascism

- Erdogan (60%): mass imprisonment of members of main opposition party, closed 190 media outlets, reshaped judiciary by major increase of friendly judges
- Bolsonaro (30%): packed his government with 100 past & current military officers, supporters forming into paramilitary groups, increasing control over police forces



A black and white close-up photograph of Donald Trump. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. His mouth is wide open in a shout, and his eyes are squinted. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "IS TRUMP A FASCIST?" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

IS TRUMP A FASCIST?

Is Trump a Fascist?

- Focus on Mythic Past:
 - “Make America Great Again”
 - “Why do we want all those people from Africa here? They’re shithole countries. We should have more people from Norway.”
- Make Dominant Ethnic Group Feel Like Victims:
 - “We’re going to protect Christianity”
 - “Mexico is laughing at our stupidity and now they are beating us economically. They are not our friend. The US has become the dumping ground for everyone’s problems.”



Is Trump a Fascist?

- Destroy Truth/Promote Conspiracy Theories:
 - “The Head of the Boy Scouts called me and said ‘your speech was the greatest ever made to our group’”
 - “I don’t know much about QAnon, but I understand that they love me. These are people who love our country.”
- Value Pure Rural Areas Over Corrupt Cities:
 - “Our great Patriot farmers will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of our China trade deal”
 - “A lot of people are looking at what’s happening to these Democrat run cities and they’re disgusted.”



Is Trump a Fascist?

- Develop Cult of the Leader/Only Leader Can Solve Problems:
 - “When I see the dilapidated road and bridges and the factories moving overseas. Only I can solve these problems.”
 - “Lou Dobbs says I’m the greatest President in the history of the country.”
 - Sarah H Sanders: “God wanted Donald Trump to be President”



Trump's Efficacy at Destroying Guardrails



- Radicalized GOP base (e.g. GOP QAnon followers entering Congress)
- Normalized corruption (e.g. tens of millions of government \$s spent at his properties)
- Avoided Senate oversight for many cabinet appointments (e.g. "Acting" Secretary of Defense, "Acting" Attorney General)



Trump's Efficacy at Destroying Guardrails

- Until Fall 2020, he was at the low end of **Soft Fascism** – 20%
- Trump made a leap towards Hard Fascism (20% to 60%) with his efforts to steal the election

Trump fell short

If successful, would any guardrails have been left after four more years?



Trump's Efforts to Steal 2020 Election

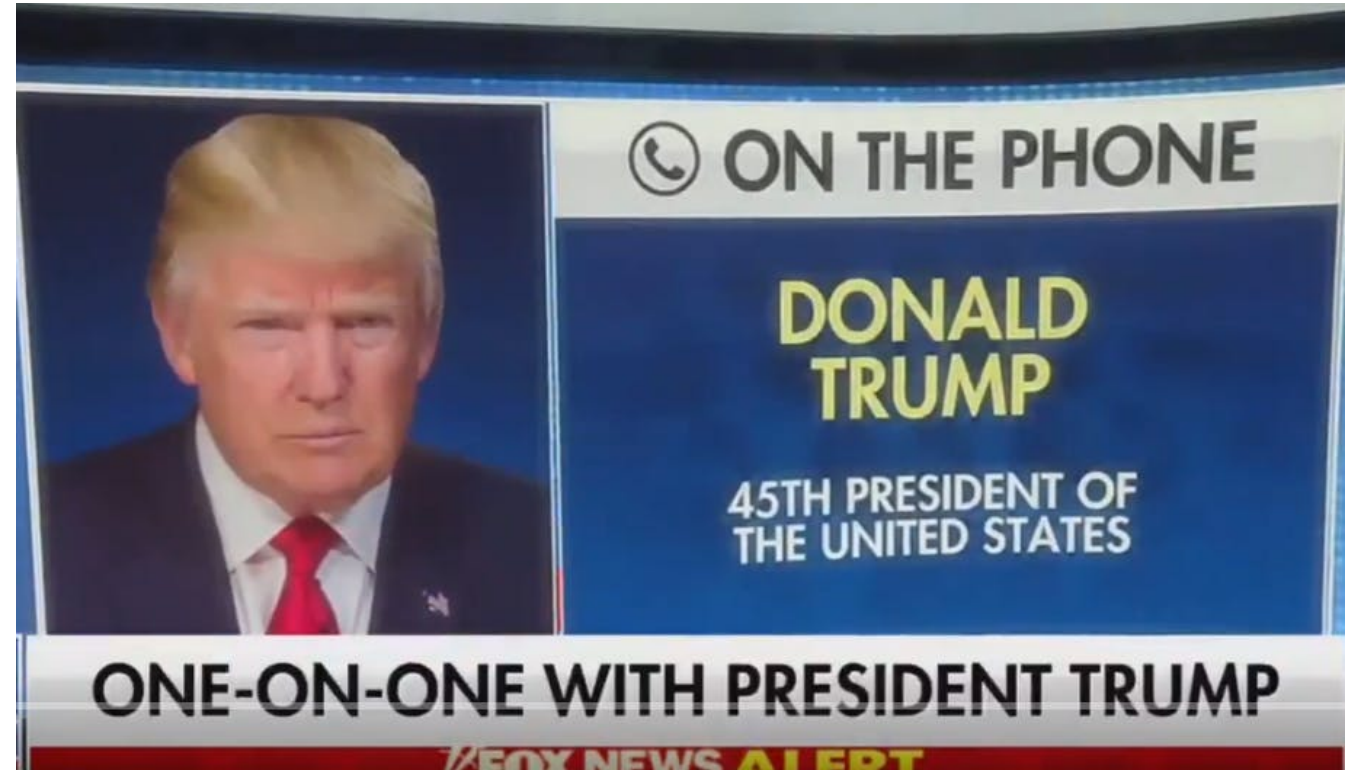
1. Cast doubt on mail-in ballots
2. Demand that a winner be named on election night
3. Dozens of post-election lawsuits that yielded nothing
4. Put pressure on GOP legislatures of states he lost to name alternative Electoral College slates
5. Put pressure on the VP to not accept the Electoral College votes from states he lost
6. Called a rally in DC on Jan 6, which interrupted the Congressional Certification of vote



Trump's Efforts to Steal 2020 Election

“Our Supreme Court and our courts did not have the **courage** to overturn the election.”

- *Trump (3/16/2021)*



Trump Propaganda Video at Jan 6 Rally



Message: Trump brought glory back to America. The treachery of the Democrats, Globalists, Hollywood, and BLM stole the election. Trump's power must be restored.

Will Democracy Survive the Next Onslaught?

- GOP gerrymandering gives GOP state legislatures excessive power in many swing states
- GOP will learn from 2020 & select more “loyal” election officials (e.g. GA Secretary of State, MI Board of Canvassers)
- GOP state legislatures will give themselves more power over elections



- March 22, 2021 -

Endorsement of Jody Hice

Wow, just heard the good news. One of our most outstanding Congressmen, Jody Hice, has announced he is running for Secretary of State in the Great State of Georgia. Jody has been a steadfast fighter for conservative Georgia values and is a staunch ally of the America First agenda. Unlike the current Georgia Secretary of State, Jody leads out front with integrity. I have 100% confidence in Jody to fight for Free, Fair, and Secure Elections in Georgia, in line with our beloved U.S. Constitution. Jody will stop the Fraud and get honesty into our Elections! Jody loves the people of Georgia, and has my Complete and Total Endorsement.

- President Donald J. Trump



Our Perilous Future

- We need two strong **pro-democracy** parties
- A Fascist currently leads one of our parties
- Can the Republicans break from Trump?
- Can the Democrats defeat them until they do?



Tucker Carlson Show March 25, 2021



Questions?



THANK YOU!

