

Blood and Soil: Right-Wing Terrorism Poses an Existential Threat to the United States

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Abstract

Terrorism poses grave threats to the stability of democratic societies. Right-wing terrorists (RWT) are disillusioned by equity in American society and yearn for a pre-civil rights era replete with segregation at the least and forcible removal or genocide of minority racial groups, Muslims, and Jews at most. Their demand for this accelerationist, revolutionary sociogenic shift is influenced by racist propensities of American history: slavery, eugenics, nativism, racial violence, and discrimination are deep national scars. For RWT, societal privileges afforded to whites are not enough. RWT organizations are planning for and accelerating a breakdown of civil order within the United States. This is so that they can establish white separatist ethnostates, exterminate non-whites, and eliminate equal protection under the law.

RWT of the 21st century have replaced their forebears' Klan robes and brownshirts with coiffed hair, suit jackets, and polished leather shoes. They have swapped epithets for dog whistles. They espouse radical political beliefs in calm tones, peppering their lurid diatribes with hints of pseudoscientific intellectualism and feigned thoughtfulness. This illusory exterior, nonetheless, is bursting with anti-Semitic bile, encouragement of terroristic acts, and a refusal to abide by the rule of law. RWT poses the greatest threat to the United States compared to other types of terrorism because the ubiquity, organic appeal, and historicity of RWT buttresses the ability of these organizations to radicalize white Americans into belief systems beholden to America's racist,

violent past. This ultimately inspires manifold approaches by RWT to weaken and possibly destroy the United States.

Keywords: ethnostate, ghost skins, the Turner Diaries, jouissance, alt-right, accelerationism, fashwave, white genocide

Main

“[F]ear breeds repression: that repression breeds hate; that hate menaces stable government.”—Justice Louis Brandeis, *Whitney v. California*, 1927.

The history of the United States includes judicially sanctioned genocide against Native Americans (Valencia-Weber, 2002), chattel slavery (Post, 2003), ethnic cleansing (MacWilliams, 2020, pp. 52-53), racially motivated exclusions preventing participation in American real estate markets or banking structures by means of redlining and blockbusting (Rothstein, 2017), segregation, and lynching (Cook, Logan, & Parman, 2018). White supremacism, nativism, patriot militiadom, and white separatism are conspicuous features of far-right politics in nations of historically Caucasian leadership (Mudde, 2019); the United States is no outlier in this regard (Gordon-Reed, 2018). Groups operating under these aforementioned racialist beliefs functioned at the furthest fringes of the American political spectrum during the 1970s through the early 2000s, though their conspiracism and extremist beliefs have been finding a home in the nation’s body politic over the last ten years (Chandler, 2020). Their beliefs include that of the QAnon conspiracy, which alleges that elites and politicians are Satanic cannibals engaged in child sex trafficking (Coaston, 2020). This tale reeks of the blood libel conspiracy, which is an anti-Semitic trope dating back to the Black Death of 14th-century Europe. This conspiracy accused members of the Jewish faith of sacrificing

Christian children during supposed Judeo-Satanic rituals as means of self-protection from contagious diseases (Schwartz, 2016). (It is more likely that members of the Jewish faith comparatively avoided plagues and disease because they were socially ostracized and therefore lived separately in ghettos thus rarely interacting with others outside their community. Likewise, Jews during the Medieval Ages observed modern hygienic practices such as regular hand washing and bathing while their Christian European contemporaries did not [Wein & Astor, n.d.].) A new movement of far-right politics which has adopted these beliefs overlaps with right-wing terrorism. This movement has been labeled as alternative right, or “alt-right” for short. Alt-right beliefs are a mainstay in contemporary American politics (Wilson, 2018) with multiple QAnon proponents now holding elected office.

In the late 1970s, American right-wing terrorists (RWT) received a toxic metaphysical roadmap on how to overthrow the United States government, terrorize non-whites, and conduct asymmetrical warfare. William Luther Pierce (1978) wrote about a hypothetical war conducted by white separatists against a tyrannical “System” built by Jews, liberals, and Blacks to “oppress the white race.” Since that time, multiple terror attacks have been committed by RWT in imitation of those conducted in Pierce’s book, the *Turner Diaries*.

Timothy McVeigh’s bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was influenced by the *Diaries* (Morris & Crank, 2011). The attack killed and injured hundreds and remains the deadliest RWT attack in the United States. The Order was a paramilitaristic white supremacist gang whose name was inspired by an organization within the *Diaries*. Alan Berg, a prominent and controversial Jewish radio host, was assassinated by members of the Order in his driveway (Southern Poverty Law Center, n.d.). The Order also committed robberies of armored vehicles on the West Coast of the United States during the 1980s. These attacks

were seen by security services to have been conducted with militaristic efficiency. The yield from these robberies funded RWT criminal enterprises including firearm, explosive, and ammunition purchasing for at least a decade (Smith, Damphousse, & Roberts, 2003-2006). Eventually, all leaders of the Order were incapacitated by law enforcement. Some chose to end their lives in martyrizing blazes of glory against “gun toting bureaucrats” (Mathews, 1984). Others were convicted for life sentences for crimes ranging from racketeering to criminal conspiracy (McClary, 2006).

The publication of the Turner Diaries represents a foundational shift of RWT thinking in the United States from one of resistance to civil rights and sustained violence against Black Americans to one of protracted asymmetrical warfare against the government. RWT poses the greatest threat to the United States compared to other types of terrorism because the ubiquity, organic appeal, and historicity of RWT buttresses the ability of these organizations to radicalize white Americans into belief systems beholden to America’s racist, violent past. This ultimately inspires manifold approaches by RWT to weaken and possibly destroy the United States:

- RWT caused thousands of American terrorism deaths and injuries in the 19th (Budiansky, 2008), 20th, and 21st centuries (Jones, 2018).
- Given that the nation was founded with racial animus, the true number of fatalities stemming from RWT may never truly be known. They include victims of hate crimes before their official recording, post-Reconstruction retaliation, and a culture of hostile jurisprudence (Horne, 2018, pp. 49-50) and legislation (MacWilliams, 2020, p. 70).

- From 1994 until 2020, RWT's conducted 57% of terror attacks in the United States (Jones, Doxsee, & Harrington, 2020).

Right-wing terrorism is sewn deeply into the fabric of American society; attempting to combat it presents a dynamic need for society to readjust its foci towards dismantling systems of white supremacy which, through its permeation of American society, empowers RWT each day these power structures persist. It is important to note that RWT views can be canalized into several different belief systems which differ in small ways from one another. Nevertheless, nearly all hold virulent anti-government, anti-Semitic, and anti-democratic views (Dafaure, 2020). Recurring themes among RWT groups include accelerationism, which is a belief system that seeks to hasten the breakdown of American society by means of emphasizing racial animus, fomenting disorder, encouraging sexual violence, and disregarding laws (Noys, 2014). Goals of RWT in the United States include the creation of white separatist ethnostates in the Pacific Northwest (Medina, Nicolosi, Brewer, & Linke, 2018) and Florida (Segarra, 2018), rallying around neo-Nazi and neofascist iconography, and dismantling equal protection under the constitution.

Other beliefs are indeed most inscrutable. Ecofascists, for example, imagine a sociogenic reversion to a numinous, traditional Jeffersonian agrarianism replete with environmentalism, neo-paganism, anti-capitalism, anti-socialism, and dogmatism (Lamoureux, 2020). Analogous to these abstruse neofascist belief systems, a member of the Washington House of Representatives named Matt Shea worked with patriot militias to traffic firearms with the intention of filling a power vacuum in the event of a governmental collapse. Shea's goal is to establish a Christian theocratic government in Washington state (Leodler &Leodler, 2019). Shea distributed a manuscript which called for

the execution of non-Christian males and the divvying up of “war booty” among Christian combatants after the successful conclusion of a religious war against the government and non-Christians in and around Washington state (Shea, 2018).

Internet conspiracism acts as the lodestar for RWT. Ecofascists, for example, assert that capitalism is a Jewish conspiracy to degrade the environment for capitalistic gain at the expense of the natural order. White genocide, another RWT conspiracy, alleges that the white race is being strategically eliminated by means of integration, racial miscegenation, mass migration, and disempowerment by globalist elites (Wilson, 2018). Economic changes such as the North American Free Trade Agreement have caused disruption to the economic viability of the American working class. Trade protectionism is one aspect of how RWT signal, identify, and cultivate disaffected white Americans (Moriba & Paksima, 2020b). The online deployment of language to blame globalists for economic and social woes is especially powerful and draws directly from historical fascist iconography against Jews, trade unionists, social democrats, capitalists, socialists, anti-fascists, feminists, and centrists (Martin, 2016).

However, salacious and cliché conspiracies are not unilaterally proselytizing hapless denizens of the internet while conscripting naïve, disgruntled whites into a life of terrorism. Other new-wave tactics are used by RWT to influence internet users subliminally and overtly. Caucasians in the United States have greater access to internet compared to their peers of different races (Pew Research Center, 2013-2019). It therefore bears no surprise that RWT conduct outreach and recruitment by facilitating digital dialogue. This occurs via:

- Unironic Holocaust-denial or pro-Nazi meme sharing on imageboards, internet forums, and video games (DeCook, 2018).
- The crafting of comments on websites to subliminally normalize misogynistic, xenophobic vitriol as humorous and acceptable within wider culture (Gibson, 2019).
- Positively framing toxic masculinity and chauvinism at the expense of feminism and womanhood (Campbell, 2017).
- Duplicitously trolling or flaming opponents with outrageous statements and contrarian beliefs ostensibly to guffaw at their opponents' anger or disdain when the tacit goal is to defame, humiliate, and incite (Jakubowicz, 2017).
- Deploying hashtags for disinformation or coded language out of the realm of discernment by mainstream internet users to denigrate and mischaracterize justice movements geared towards constructive social change (Anti-Defamation League, n.d.).

Hateful ideologies have been stylishly and enigmatically repackaged so that it is difficult for social media platform administrators to detect when certain posts truly violate terms of service. Nowhere is this better exemplified than in an internet subculture called “fashwave,” a portmanteau of “fascism” and “synthwave.” Synthwave is an internet microgenre noted for dark, heavy synthesizer loops conjoined with an electronic 1980s-Americana science-fiction Reaganite-horror esthetic. Fashwave as an extension utilizes a comparable esoteric, nostalgic esthetic steeped in memology to reinforce and tout neo-Nazi propaganda, often in easily accessible spaces on the internet (Love, 2017).

This cryptic subculture flummoxes those who are unaware of its machinations while gesticulating to those who are au fait. The ability of RWT to hide in plain sight on electronic forums, apps, and message boards maintained by corporations is disquieting because RWT expedite communiqués and recruitment in commonly shared internet spaces where users do not anticipate encountering nativist rhetoric. Serendipitous exposure to subliminal racist messaging is seen by psychologists as a crucial element of internalizing racism. Psychotherapists suggest that the spontaneous discovery and cultivation of joy by transgressing against others' cultures or race—a concept known as *jouissance*—is phantasmatically rewarding to the psyche like how eating or having sex is reinforced by subconscious survival drives (Hook, 2018).

RWT do not need to sneak into the country, receive training in remote and isolated regions of the world replete with terrorist training camps, fight abroad as volunteers in jihad to gain battle experience, or hide their true beliefs. They are already here and have been here since before the inception of the country (Horne, 2018), some are military veterans with combat experience, they can train in their own backyard (Moriba & Paksima, 2020a), and they have considerable understanding of American culture and the English language. White supremacist beliefs, a primary component of RWT, are not a view that disqualifies people from spiritually counseling large swathes of the American public (Jones, 2020), holding elected office (Murphy, 2017), or maintaining administrative and educational jobs (Starke, Heckler, & Mackey, 2018).

RWT push for recruits to join law enforcement and counterintelligence agencies nationwide so they can clandestinely gather information about security services' daily operations. Recruits are ordered to remain mum about their true beliefs while working in these power structures.

Infiltrators of this stripe are referred to by RWT as “ghost skins.” Ghost skins’ infiltrative impact is unknown to counterintelligence, law enforcement, and the public. Further, the agencies they work for often have opaque remedial remedies to combat clandestine RWT reconnaissance (Chin, 2013). Some ghost skins were embedded inside the United States State Department, where they gleaned large amounts of proprietary information about governmental policies and procedures relating to international relations goals of the United States and its allies (Williams & Siemaszko, 2019). Recent investigations have uncovered RWT leaders as having served in counterintelligence and federal law enforcement (De Simone & Winston, 2020), the United States Armed Forces (U.S. Department of Justice, 2020), and local police departments (Chin, 2013).

One notable instance of a ghost skin is the case of Rinaldo Nazzaro. Nazzaro leads a neo-Nazi, neo-pagan, accelerationist group called the Base, unironically named after the translation of al-Qaeda, which in Arabic means “the base.” Nazzaro is a former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) counterintelligence officer and Pentagon contractor who fled to Russia in 2018. He now conducts virtual, remote recruitment of disaffected white Americans into the Base (De Simone, Soshnikov, & Winston, 2020). The Russian Federation shelters and supports United States citizens who hold idiosyncratic secessionist ideals in an attempt by Russia to balkanize or otherwise weaken the United States from afar (Ragozin, 2016). The ability of foreign governments to redress RWT inside the United States insulates these organizations. It allows them to conduct activities without fear of their upper echelon being neutralized by traditional counterintelligence means such as adjudication, surveillance, law enforcement confrontation, or civil forfeiture. Nazzaro is considered by American intelligence agencies to be an “active measure,” meaning the Russian government most likely

shelters Nazzaro to actively disrupt American society (Barnes & Goldman, 2020).

According to the Institute for Economics and Peace (2020), the most significant losses incurred from terrorist actions are resultant from deaths and injuries and not by damage to buildings or property. RWT have taken note:

- Targets of homegrown RWT are overwhelmingly peaceful protestors (Binkowski, 2017) (Jones, 2018) but also include worshippers (Vogel-Scibilia, 2020), shoppers (Abutaleb, 2019), federal employees (Gartrell, 2020), police (Berman, 2014), women (Beekman, 2014), Black Americans (Alcindor & Stanglin, 2015), Muslims (Green, 2020), and countless others (Piazza, 2017).
- 2019 saw the most violent year for victims of hate crime in over a decade with over 7,000 killed or injured, along with comparable numbers in 2018 and 2017 (FBI, 2020).
- Since 2002, jihadi and left-wing terrorism has killed and injured fewer Americans when compared to RWT and hate crimes (New America, 2020).
- Yet merely 20% of FBI counterterrorist agents are dedicated full-time to conducting domestic probes against RWT (Bergengruen & Hennigan, 2019).

Until security services take RWT more seriously by dedicating additional manpower and capital, Americans will pay the price. That failure to act will lead to fear, and that fear will inevitably succumb to hate. As observed by Justice Brandeis nearly 100 years ago during the peak of eugenics,

segregation, and Klan membership, “hate menaces stable government.”

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