



ISIS AND THE ALT-RIGHT:

Two Sides of the Same Fascism



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BOTH TEXTS TAKEN FROM ITSGOINGDOWN.ORG

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This means shutting down their rallies. It means exposing their organizers. It means giving them no platform to speak, share their views, and rally their troops. It means building in our communities against both the rise of fascism and the everyday systems of patriarchy, colonialism, and white supremacy that industrial capitalism is built on. It means not believing in milquetoast liberal nonsense that we can defeat these systems through 'good ideas' or rational arguments, and instead acknowledging that in order to stop a movement based on supremacy and genocide, *we actually have to fucking fight it.*

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AGAINST ALT-RIGHT AND ANTI-MUSLIM TERROR

On Saturday, June 10th, across the US, Trump supporters along with members of the far-Right and Alt-Right, will converge in various cities to take part in 'anti-Sharia Law' demonstrations.

The group calling for the protests, ACT for America, has a long history as an anti-Muslim group with clear links to the Alt-Right and the far-Right. Militias and racist groups such as the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys, and the III%ers are also doing security at many of these events, and will in turn work closely with law enforcement. Members of the Alt-Right want to use these events to recruit, and ACT for America specifically wants to use the threat of radical Islam to promote their own version of a more entrenched system of authoritarian Christianity. We must reject all of this, especially the racist scapegoating of immigrants, refugees, and all Muslim people.

These demonstrations are also happening against a backdrop of both a rise in attacks, killings, and acts of terror by the Alt-Right, as well as continued acts of terror abroad carried out by ISIS. As anarchists, we see the ideological parallels of both of these groups, as they both represent an authoritarian form of social, economic, and political organization. As anarchists, we are part of a movement that is fighting and at times dying in solidarity with our comrades in Rojava and Syria against ISIS, a fight that involves many Muslims who are also in struggle to rid the Islamic State from their lands. This perspective allows us to see anti-Muslim attacks and Islamophobia for what they are: an

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attempt to create an internal enemy to bolster the ranks of the far-Right and play off fears nurtured by the elites.

Western governments are also using continued ISIS attacks to push for the ramping up of surveillance and repression at home, while relying on various authoritarian regimes in the Middle East to bring stability to US economic and political interests. If the “War on Terror” has shown us anything, it’s that continued repression at home and wars abroad won’t make us safer – *but they can get us killed*. Meanwhile, the ongoing proxy wars and occupation of the Middle East by Western powers leads to the growth of groups like ISIS, creating a continuous cycle of terror, occupation, imperialism, and repression that benefits no one but corporations and governments, be they the Islamic or United States.

Caught in the middle of all of this are hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing wars backed by the US and the murder squads of ISIS, as well as the people already in the United States who face ongoing racist attacks and harassment for their skin color, ethnicity, and religion. In the last several months, we have seen wave after wave of far-Right murders, arson attacks, and acts of terror. In the face of this violence, we stand in solidarity with those targeted and against the authoritarian monsters of the world; be they Alt-Right killers on the streets of America, drone strikes carried out by the US government, or the death squads of the Islamic State.

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common denominator: *fighting antifa*.

And so we see them standing in front of Confederate statues holding torches in the night. Giving Nazi salutes at conferences and outdoor rallies. We find their flyers, stickers, and posters in our neighborhoods, schools, streets, and workplaces. But we also see people in the thousands, saying that enough is enough and drawing a line in the sand, while much of the Left has stood by and wrung its hands and marched in circles.

The horrific murders of Richard Collins III, a college graduate who was about to join the armed forces, along with Ricky Best, 53, or Portland, a 23 year veteran, as well as Taliesin Namkai-Meche, 23, a recent Portland college graduate – will help to turn public opinion against the Alt-Right, *but it won’t stop them*. Just this week, law enforcement discovered a plot by neo-Nazis to build bombs with chemical weapons that had the potential for mass destruction. The plans of the Alt-Right for murder, genocide, and terror won’t stop because of public opinion – *we have to stop them*.

We also can’t look to the police or government to do this for us. Just this week, as the Alt-Right was stacking up corpses, bay area law enforcement raided two homes in connection to antifascist protests in Berkeley on April 15th. Meanwhile, as Nathan Damigo and Kyle Chapman, both with violent records walk free and clear, the police and the State, helped by neo-Nazis on 4chan’s /pol/, continues to turn its repressive head towards the anarchist and antifascist movement.

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Anti-capitalist, feminist, and anti-statist Kurdish forces in the autonomous region of Rojava, have been leading the fight against ISIS. They include Muslims, Christians, Arabs, Kurds, and people of all faiths and nationalities. The communal, egalitarian, and ecological society they are building flies in the face of the brutality of ISIS, the ethno-fascism of the Alt-Right, and the industrial capitalist neoliberalism of the West.

This ongoing revolutionary process in Rojava, as well as the push by the people of Syria to form and organize popular councils in the Syrian Revolution, has led many anarchists, anticapitalists, and antifascists around the world to take up the fight against ISIS and work towards a free, autonomous, and liberatory society.

Thus, while keyboard warriors on the far-Right were posting their daily racist, sexist, and inflammatory comments on messageboards, anarchists and antifascists were giving their lives in a country they weren't even born in to destroy ISIS and the fascism that it represents.

Meanwhile, in the United States and Canada, anarchists and antifascists have been at the forefront of a violent struggle against the Alt-Right. Using liberal talking points of "free speech," the Alt-Right has formed a coalition that includes reactionary libertarians, neo-Confederates, militia groups like the Oath Keepers and the III%ers, Trump supporters, and the 'Alt-Lite,' led by talking heads such as Gavin McInnes and Milo Yiannopoulos. The basis of unity for this coalition is the lowest

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PORTLAND TO MANCHESTER: ALT-RIGHT & ISIS PRODUCE THE SAME NIGHTMARE

The recent bombing in Manchester, England by an ISIS supporter and a string of horrific murders across the US and Canada to many on the surface will appear to have little in common, due to who carried them out: *ISIS and the Alt-Right*. Upon closer inspection however, these two movements run both not only parallel to each other, but share almost completely similar goals: *fascism*.

Growing out of the chaos of war and occupation created by US imperialist intervention in Iraq and the greater Middle Eastern region, ISIS has come to control vast amounts of territory in several countries. They are known for slaughtering entire villages, using rape as a weapon, selling people into slavery, and committing horrific atrocities. It is no wonder that their graffiti reads: "Convert or Die." The kind of society that ISIS is creating within its controlled borders is also extremely fascist and authoritarian; ruled by military force and a police state, where a privileged class reigns above all others.

On the other side of the world, another fascist movement has also been brewing: the *Alt-Right*. In a recent article in *The Atlantic*, Graeme Wood, a former classmate of Richard Spencer, wrote about how the neo-Nazi leader praised his articles on ISIS, *because he saw a similarity in the two movements*:

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zine on the Islamic State. "Your articles on isis have been popular on the alt-right," he told me.

I winced: Anti-Muslim bigots liked that I had described isis as an Islamic movement, linked to traditions within Islam. "Is that because you hate Muslims?," I asked.

"No," he said. "Because isis is an identity movement. Because they have ideas, and because you wrote about their ideas. Also, they are a grassroots movement. They've built themselves up fast, from nothing."

Is it any wonder that Alt-Right trolls on social media have taken up #WhiteSharia as a hashtag to support their views?

Like ISIS, the Alt-Right is a movement based around fascism, authoritarianism, and redefining the boundaries of who is *included* and who is *excluded* within the borders of a State. In other words: *who can you legally kill?* For ISIS, it is easy. You either bow down to their twisted interpretation of Islam, or you are an enemy. For the Alt-Right, you are either biologically white, or you are inferior and thus genetically predestined to crime, stupidity, and the destruction of 'the white race,' and therefore a target for eradication.

But moreover, like ISIS, the Alt-Right loves and celebrates violence. It's entire eco-system runs on gas chamber memes and pictures of Augusto Pinochet. It is any wonder why it's most popular and violent websites like *The Daily Stormer* are linked to killing spree after grisly murder after potential terror attack? When you have Alt-Right leaders who openly call for genocide and even call themselves Nazis, can we be surprised when their

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fans begin to carry out that program?

But in the US, the Alt-Right also has something that ISIS does not: *a huge platform to share their views*. The liberal and centrist media has rolled out the red carpet for the Alt-Right, both normalizing their ideas and making people like Richard Spencer and Nathan Damigo a household name. Now, members of these movements are killing people left and right. Just as the mainstream media used Trump as click bait and helped launch him into office, so to have they helped grow and build the Alt-Right, while also helping to demonize anyone that confronts them in the streets.

This is a point that should be made *very clear*. While Alt-Right leaders like Richard Spencer may present themselves as clean cut, 'suit and tie intellectuals,' Spencer openly works with a wide variety of neo-Nazi and white nationalist groups. This openly connects him to everyone from white power skinheads to the Ku-Klux-Klan. In propping him up, the mainstream media has both normalized the violence of these groups and also expanded their audience, while the Trump administration has mined the Alt-Right for talking points and even appointed some of it's people into positions of power.

But the Alt-Right and ISIS also share another material reality: *the people that fight them*. While far-Right adherents like the Oath Keepers' militia, which has protected Alt-Right and white nationalist speakers in Berkeley, Pikeville, Boston, and elsewhere, proclaim that ISIS represents *all* Muslims, the reality is that the vast majority of people both fleeing ISIS terror

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