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Anti-Diversity Movements in Europe: Lessons for the U.S.

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Dentice, Dianne, "Anti-Diversity Movements in Europe: Lessons for the U.S." (2021). *Diversity Conference*. 14.

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Anti-Diversity Movements in Europe: Lessons for the United States

Dianne Dentice, Ph.D.

OMA Diversity Conference 2021

IMPORTANT WORDS of Warning

- On January 27, 2021 the Department of Homeland Security reported that the U.S. faces a growing threat from homegrown domestic terrorists.
- On the same day, Capitol Police announced that the January 6, 2021 insurrection left 140 officers injured and five people dead, including one officer. Two other police officers present during the siege have since committed suicide.



Democracy Defined

Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to elect their governing legislators. Cornerstones include freedom of assembly and speech, inclusiveness and equality, voting rights, right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and minority rights.



France

- Semi-presidential Republic
- Established in 1958
- French Parliament consists of a Senate and National Assembly
- Voters elect a President for a 5 year term; limited to two terms
- Prime Minister is a political appointment
- Current President is Emmanuel Macron



The National Rally, aka National Front Party

- Founded in 1972; Jean-Marie Le Pen was the party's first leader and served for 39 years
- Influenced by French fascists from the 1930s and well liked by white nationalist leaders in the U.S.
- Le Pen was anti-Semitic, a Holocaust denier, and anti-immigrant – especially with regard to those from Muslim countries



Heiress Apparent: Marine Le Pen

- Assumed leadership from her father in 2011
- Opposes immigration from Islamic countries
- Charismatic and attractive; attorney by training
- Finished third in the 2012 French presidential election
- With an endorsement from former President Trump, she ran in April 2017 and lost to Emmanuel Macron with 34% of the vote
- Recently announced her candidacy for 2022 election



Greece



- Parliamentary Republic; Democracy restored in 1974
- Constitution is the fundamental charter of the state
- President is Head of State and elected by Parliament every 5 years
- Prime Minister is head of government
- General elections for members of Parliament are held every 4 years
- Electorate consists of all Greek citizens, 18 years and older

The Golden Dawn



- Founded in 1980 to oppose immigration and to forcibly remove immigrants from Greece
- Re-emerged as a political force during the 2008 financial crisis
- 2012 election slogan = “So we can rid this land of filth.”
- Funded social services for Greek citizens only = “Soup kitchens of hatred.”
- In 2014 three Golden Dawn candidates were elected to the European Parliament

The Party Unravels



- 2013 – murder of anti-fascist rapper, Pavlos Fyassas (his killer is currently serving a life sentence)
- Public outcry against violence
- 2015 – trial of 69 leaders/members on weapons charges and other crimes
- 2020 – all were found guilty of operating a criminal organization, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons, and using violence to remove political rivals, immigrants, and communists from Greece

Proud Boys (2016)



- Emerged during the 2016 presidential campaign
- Founder = Gavin McInnes, a Canadian ex-patriot to the U.S. who is anti-immigration and anti-Semitic
- Alternative name = The pro-Trump Men's Club
- Motto = "We are proud Western chauvinists and we refuse to apologize for creating the modern world."
- McInnes stepped down as leader after a violent confrontation with protesters in New York City (2018)

Current Proud Boys Leader: Enrique Tarrio



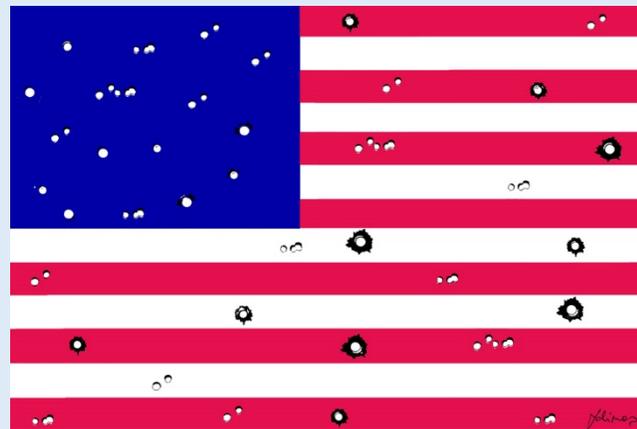
Boogaloo Bois (2019)

- Right wing extremists who are anti-government ideologues
- Tactics = infiltrate protests to accelerate racial/civic unrest; directly oppose pandemic directives by states and federal government
- Motto = “Civil War 2: Electric Boogaloo.”
- Known to be hostile to law enforcement who they view as agents of the state



Accelerationists

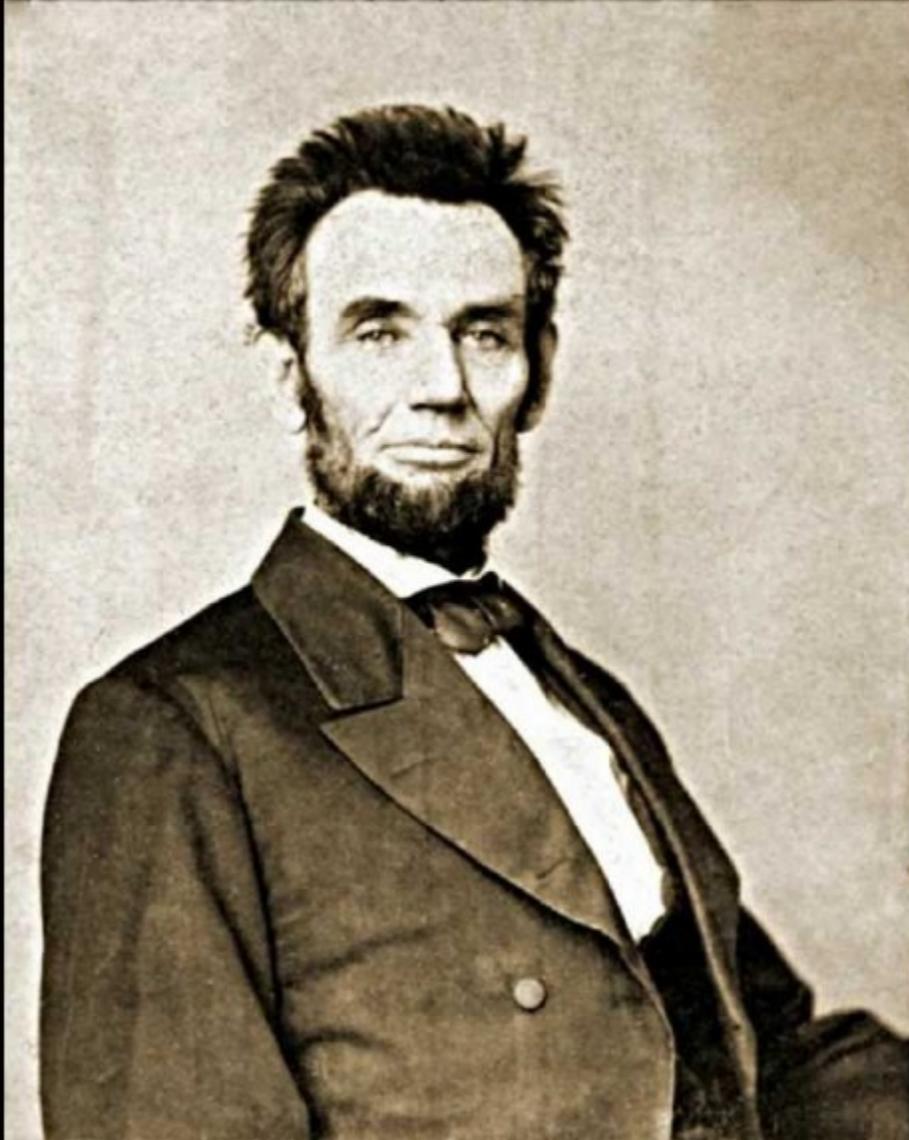
- A type of rightist who wants Democratic institutions to fail
- Represented by groups with different views about how to resist perceived state tyranny
- Believe in using civil disorder to break the current political system
- Some target law enforcement specifically and jump into causes in order to create disorder (George Floyd protests in Las Vegas)



Democracy Quotes



- “My position on democracy is really clear. Any attempt to overthrow the country is a betrayal to our unity and is treason.” Fethullah Gulen, Turkish peace activist
- “The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.” Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- “The end of democracy and the defeat of the American Revolution will occur when government falls into the hands of lending institutions and moneyed corporations.” Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States



**As I would not be a
slave, so I would not
be a master. This
expresses my idea
of Democracy.**

Abraham Lincoln

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