

## Those Who Advocate Violent Confrontation

### ALT-Right

The term originated in 2008 to describe a form of white nationalism. It encompasses a good number of organizations and people who support a white supremacist agenda. Some are known:

1. Neo-Nazis, coming from people and groups that want to revive the ideology of Nazism, including:
  - a. ultranationalism
  - b. racism
  - c. xenophobia
  - d. homophobia
  - e. antisemitism
  - f. anti-communism
  - g. denial of the holocaust
2. KKK, coming from the Civil War with deep resentments about African American or Jewish people

They have a sizable number of spokespersons. From Stephen Bannon, leader of Breitbart News and one of President Trump's campaign team, to and including such notables as Milo Yiannopoulos, Jared Taylor, David Horowitz, Matthew Heimbach. Among their many hate organizations are what are called fight clubs, such as Proud Boys or the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights. Their goal at their rallies or when they disrupt peaceful rallies is to provoke confrontation and violence, and leading the media to believe that they are the victims whose free-speech rights are being denied. The two fight clubs I mentioned include in their initiation street fighting and specifically brawling with anti-fascists at public rallies.

### From the Left

On the left are two known groups who believe in violent confrontation to silence the ALT-Right.

1. Antifa, meaning anti-fascist, arose in the 1980's in Europe to fight neo-Nazism. They argue that Naziism, and by extension the ALT-Right, should be silenced and that they need to be willing to physically make that happen.
2. Black Bloc, again had its origins in Germany in the 1980's to fight nuclear power and neo-Nazis. They claim to engage in "symbolic" violence (desecration of symbols of capitalism or defending protesters. There is no formal organization. It's more of a tactic, one that arises fairly ad-hoc. They came to be noticed especially at the WTO Summit in Seattle in 1999. They are often clad in black. The people that engage in this violence come from anarchists, communists, environmentalists, feminists, queer activists, students, etc.

### Cost of confrontation

The cost of Antifa and Black Bloc is well known. It goes back to Germany when Hitler and Naziism were on the rise. In the Wedding neighborhood of Berlin where many communists lived, Nazis showed up to hold a rally. That led to violence against each other. But Hitler used that to characterize the left as violent. Many Germans became so afraid of that that they embraced the Nazis. It became a major recruiting tool of Hitler. Here in this country, at Charlottesville and Berkeley especially, the violence of Black Bloc and Antifa changed the narrative in the press to one where the left became the agitators of violence, denying freedom of speech to the haters. It even allowed President Trump to talk about the bad hombres on both sides at Charlottesville!

## Responding to those provoking violent confrontation

### Peace Ambassadors

- Be extra vigilant and observe the surroundings.
- If you see counter demonstrators approaching with signs or taunts:
  - Encourage the marchers to ignore them
  - Alert the Peace Ambassadors around you and let the coordinator know
  - Keep marchers from confronting them
  - Alert legal observers and police if violence seems imminent
- If counter protesters engage in shouting or taunting, or threatening
  - Use your de-escalation training
  - Keep peaceful marchers moving, ignoring the provocation
  - Lead marchers to sing
  - Try some humor

[At a Nazi rally in Knoxville, people dressed as clowns. When the Nazis shouted “white power” the clowns retorted “white flour”, and threw fistfuls of flour in the air, or they retorted “white flowers?” and handed out white flowers, or again when female clowns retorted “oh, wife power!” raising letters in the air to spell it out.]

[In Wunsiedel in Germany the people turned a Nazi march into a walk-a-thon for an anti-hate group organization. Residents committed to donating money for every meter that the Nazis marched. When the marchers came to town, the residents welcomed them, celebrated, and thanked them for raising money to fight Nazism.]

- If counter protesters attempt to invade the marchers
  - Isolate them from the marchers
    - Form a line of Peace Ambassadors
    - Stop rear of march, and keep the front of the march moving forward
    - Alert police
- If counter protesters attack or start throwing things
  - Get the marchers to face away from projectiles and move away
  - If needed, assume the defense posture (sit down, fold legs in, bend over, and clasp hands behind neck)

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### Overarching moral on responding to violent counter-protesters

They are looking for confrontation. They want to be portrayed as the victims, the whole point of white supremacy. They will use violence from our marches to convince the media and the people that we, progressive marchers, are the violent ones who are trying to silence them.