

OLLI Fall 2018

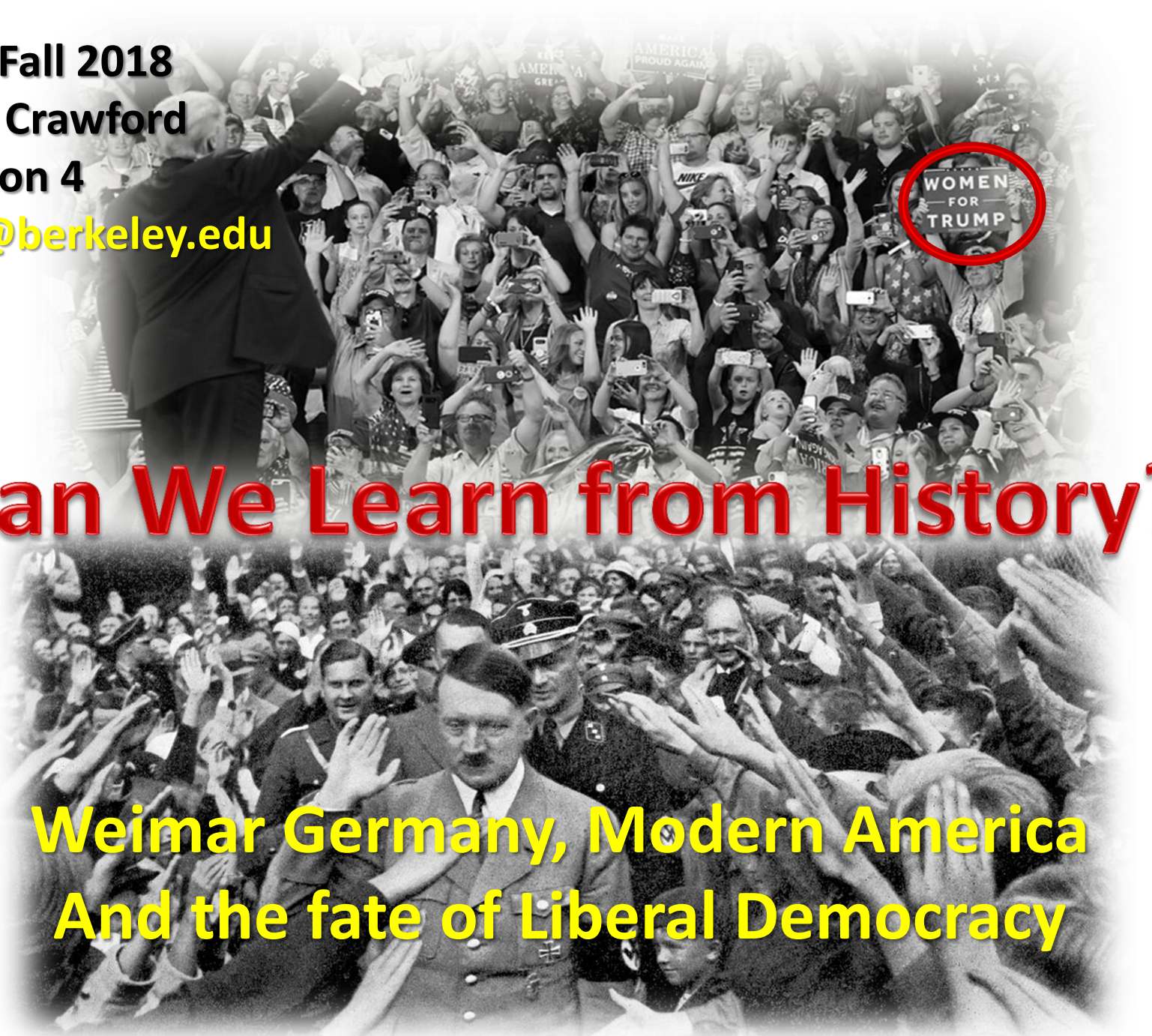
Prof. Crawford

Session 4

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Can We Learn from History?

**Weimar Germany, Modern America
And the fate of Liberal Democracy**



Review from Last week.....

- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/left-behind-america/>
- **The argument:**
 1. End of New Deal Liberalism → Neo-liberalism → **Globalization** → ↑ inequality → economic hardship for wage-earning middle class
 2. **Weaknesses of Liberalism** (Longing for heroes, security, community) + economic hardship for wage earners → tribalism → ↑ populist political movements → extreme right wing populism + digital revolution → post-truth environment → information “bubbles” and tribal conflict → **weakened liberal democracy**



Can We Learn from History?

Weimar Germany, Modern America
And the fate of Liberal Democracy





DAS *Andere* DEUTSCHLAND

FÜR ENTSCHEIDENE REPUBLIKANISCHE POLITIK / KEINER PARTEI DIENSTBAR

Berlin, Sonnabend, den 11. März 1933

Der Polizeipräsident
Landeskriminalpolizeiamt (1)

Berlin, den 3. März 1933.

1: 35^{er} 181. 33.



VERBOT.

des § 1 der Verordnung des Reichspräsidenten zum Schutze von vom 28. 2. 1933 (RGBl. I S. 83) verbiete ich hiermit im Interesse Sicherheit und Ordnung das Erscheinen der Wochenzeitung

"Andere Deutschland"

on 3 Monaten.
dlungen werden nach § 4 der Verordnung bestraft.

I. V.
gez.: Diels.

Für richtige Abschrift:
gez. Dommitzsch
Kanzleiangestellte,

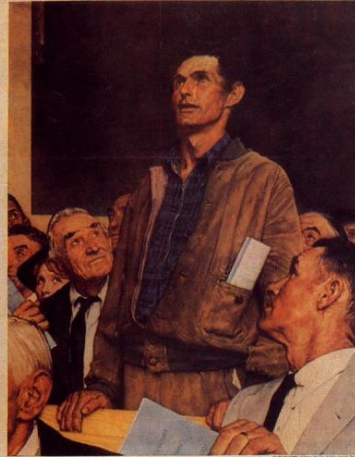
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Berlin W 57

Druck: A. Jaschewski GmbH, Berlin SO 9, Eisenhoferstr 9

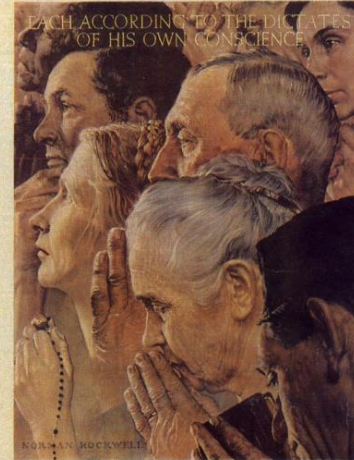




OURS...to fight for



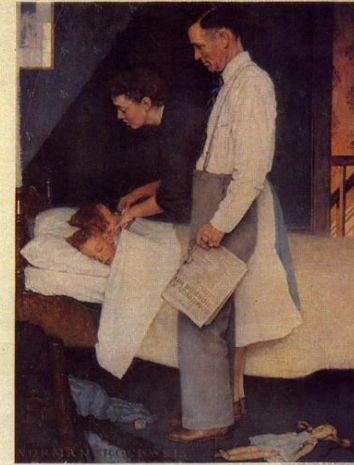
Freedom of Speech



Freedom of Worship



Freedom from Want



Freedom from Fear

FOUR FREEDOMS This classic poster from wartime America shows four paintings by the artist Norman Rockwell, all celebrating democratic and patriotic values as experienced in small-town American life.





<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/15/opinion/fascists-leaders-america-trump.html>

Is this how a nightmare unfolds?

Origins of Fascism after WW I

- Fear of Bolshivism, fear that economic power would change hands.....
- Freikorps in Germany
- Arditi in Italy



Fascism: What is It?



Fascism

As an

- Their ca
- Anti-Lib
- Ultra-N
- Militar
- home, a
- Cult of
- Cult of
- Nostalg
- **As a m**
- Mass m
- Hierarc
- those who disagree
- Drama, Pageantry, and Surprise



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dbfXp8_qjo

Role of Ordinary People in Fascism's Rise

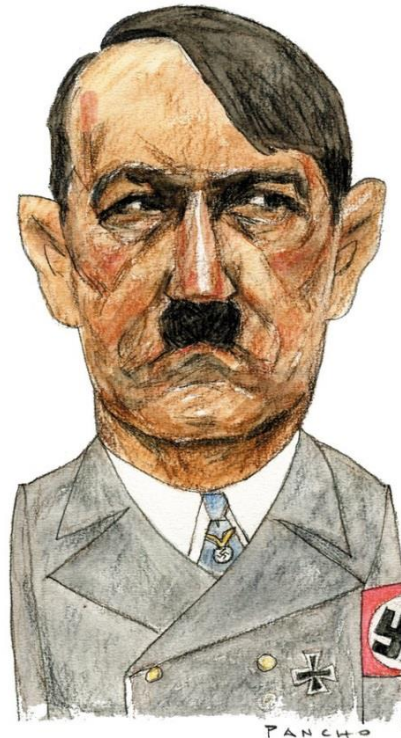
- Those who were happy
- Those who disbelieved Nazi atrocities
- Those who were numbed
- Silence and habituation
- Those who howled like wolves
- Did Fascism ever go away?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dbfXp8_qjo

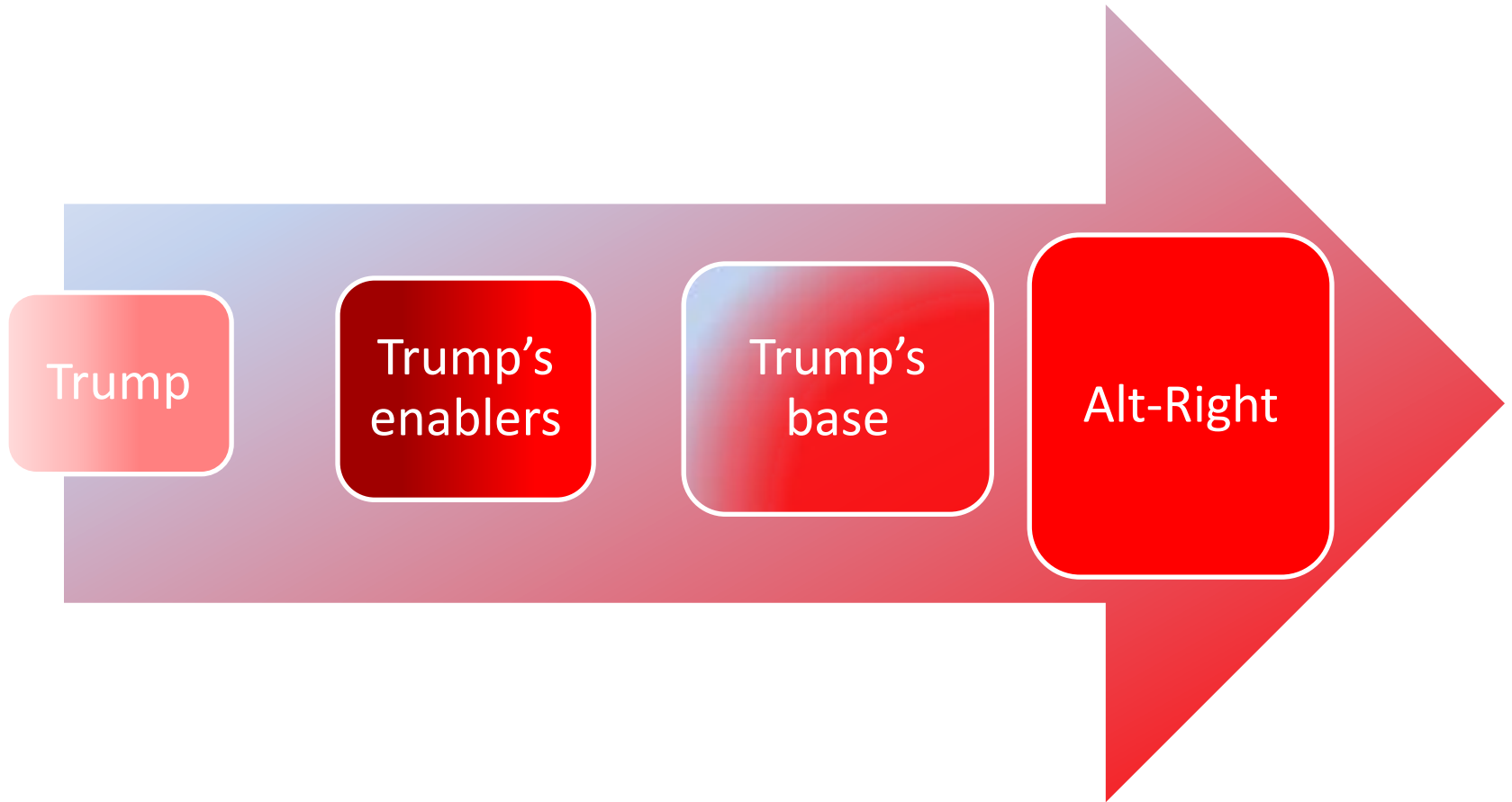


Is Trump an incipient fascist?

- Hypernationalism?
- Militarism and Glorification of Violence and readiness to use it in Politics?
- Nostalgia and glorification of the past?
- Fetishization of youth and masculinity?
- White nationalism?
- Strongman and cultivation of strongman cult?
- Mass mobilization and mass party?
- Tendency to purge the disloyal?
- Theatricality?
- Constituencies of the dissatisfied, cult of enablers, consolidation of power
- Is Trump Hitler?



Is the Right moving toward fascism?



Is the Right moving toward fascism? The Republican Party, the “base,” and the “Alt-Right

- Undermining Liberal values and the instruments of liberal democracy
- Fascist Hypernationalism?
- White nationalism, and anti-Semitism?
- Militarism?
- Glorification of Violence and readiness to use it in Politics?
- Cult of the leader
- Fetishization of youth and masculinity?



And the questions we began with

- Are we watching a nightmare unfold against good people trying to do the right thing who do not have the power to right the ship of liberal democracy and prevent the rise of fascism?
- Or are we in a situation in which good people have been energized to do the right thing, and that energy can prevent a nightmare from unfolding?
- **Is fascism on the rise again?** If not, can we rest easy and go on about our lives as the economy grows? If so, how can we prevent it