

HELL IS REAL

Dispatches from an Anti-Fascist Ohio

In this issue:

02 *A Short History of Modern Ohio*

04 *Resistance Is Always Possible - From Los Angeles to the Edelweiss Pirates*

08 *Modern Fascists 101*

12 *Get Involved / Stay Loud / Make Your Own*



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This is not a liberal pamphlet.
This is not a Republican
newsletter.
This isn't about left vs right.
It's about up vs down.

"These are the times that try men's souls."



A Short History of Modern Ohio

By T-Paine

Let's get this out of the way: Ohio didn't always wear jackboots. But you wouldn't know that from what it's become.

This state was once a battleground of labor unions, civil rights struggles, and community resistance. Akron was the rubber capital of the world. Youngstown's steel mills ran 24/7. Black and Appalachian families built towns with their bare hands. And then Reagan happened.

The 1980s: Reaganomics gutted our industries, bled the unions, and pumped evangelical fundamentalism into every political vein it could reach. Rust Belt towns were left to rot while rich folks blamed the workers they laid off. By the 90s, the national GOP had taken full control of Ohio's narrative. They sold us "family values" while selling our families to corporations.

2004: Ohio hands George W. Bush his second term. Ken Blackwell (Secretary of State AND co-chair of Bush's campaign... conflict of interest much?) presides over widespread voter suppression. That same year, the anti-gay marriage amendment passes, torching civil rights in favor of "moral panic."



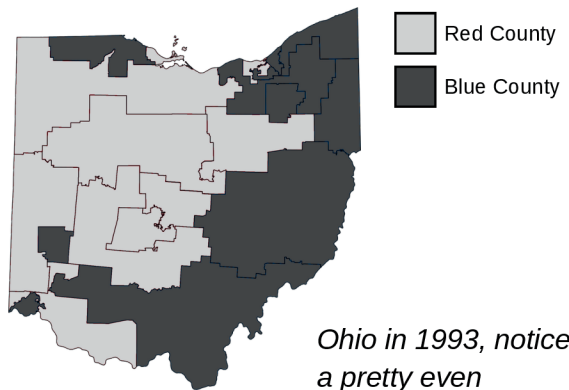
Fast-forward to 2010. The Tea Party floods Ohio. Gerrymandering locks in permanent minority rule. By 2016, Trump wins Ohio by 8 points. That's not a red wave — that's years of infrastructure built by theocrats, billionaires, and white grievance politics.

Now it's 2025. Ohio's Republican supermajority is pushing bills to outlaw drag shows, erase trans kids, ban books, dismantle public education, and use "parental rights" as a trojan horse for Christo-fascist control. Statehouse prayer groups meet weekly to bless legislation that would make Margaret Atwood shudder.

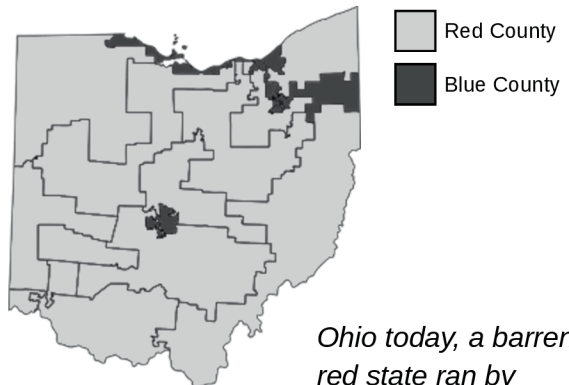
Sheriffs act like warlords. Churches act like cults. Billionaires fund "grassroots" hate movements with out-of-state PACs. And most people are too overworked, over-policed, or just plain exhausted to fight back. That's by design.

But here's the secret: their power is fragile. It's built on fear, not faith. On lies, not love. And all it takes is a spark to burn that illusion down.

This is still our state. And it's not too late to remember how to fight.



Ohio in 1993, notice a pretty even distribution between red counties and blue counties



Ohio today, a barren red state ran by barren minds. They cheated to get this; they took this state from you

Resistance Is Always Possible – From Los Angeles to the Edelweiss Pirates

By T-Paine

Los Angeles burned first. But this time not literally, but politically. Protests are erupting, spreading like fire through the streets, against the Trump administration's deployment of federal troops. Ostensibly to "protect federal functions" under the latest authoritarian memorandum, nearly 2,000 National Guard soldiers and federal agents flooded the city without the state's consent, something no president had done since 1965. California's own governor, Gavin Newsom, called it an unnecessary escalation, a crisis "manufactured" from whole cloth.

The language of the President's memorandum is classic fascist vagueness: who exactly are the "violent protestors"? What counts as rebellion against the United States government? The wording allows the state to target anyone, from immigration activists to peaceful marchers holding hand-painted signs, under the guise of protecting 'Federal functions.' This isn't paranoia, people. It's precedent.

Under the still-lingering shadows of the Patriot Act, due process protections such as habeas corpus remain tenuous. 'Suspected terrorists' (a term never clearly defined) can be detained without trial. Now this lens is aimed at protestors. With ICE already flouting due process, what's to stop federal troops from doing the same under these new orders? The framework of dictatorship is being assembled before our eyes.

And LA's reaction may only be the beginning.





Across the country, Trump allies here in Ohio, as well as Florida, Texas, and elsewhere are watching carefully. Will LA roll over? Will the National Guard settle in without resistance? Or will this moment awaken the spirit of rebellion, as it once did in history?

History tells us this: fascist regimes *can* be resisted. But only if we learn from those who did it before.

Here's something they don't teach you in school: in Nazi Germany, not every citizen became a loyal follower of the Reich. The Edelweiss Pirates, working-class German youth, refused to join the Hitler Youth. They dressed differently. They sang banned songs. They spray-painted anti-Nazi graffiti. When the war began, they helped army deserters and escaped prisoners. Some even fought Gestapo agents directly.

They were not a large movement. They were not state-sponsored. They were local, scattered, working in secret. But their resistance mattered. It disrupted. It gave hope. It cost the regime energy and fear to suppress them.

They were executed, imprisoned, tortured- but they were *not erased*. History remembers. But more importantly, no so will you. They don't want you to know resistance can happen from the inside. It's easier for you to obey if you think it's a foregone conclusion, that you have no path forward, no choice or autonomy, that you have no *hope*. And if corporate, pop culture nostalgia-bait has taught you anything worth holding onto: *Rebellions Are Built on Hope*.

Don't get comfortable because it's LA on the news. Ohio's history runs with state violence- and memory.

Remember May 4th, 1970? Kent State. The National Guard opened fire on unarmed students, killing four, wounding nine. The order came from the state, but the rifles fired on your neighbors.

It can happen here again. Today's guard trains in Ravenna, patrols Columbus, flies over Akron. ICE raids immigrant homes in Lorain. Far-right school boards meet in secret in Portage County. You've seen the "Thin Blue Line" flags. You've heard the truck horns on Route 43.

LA is the warning shot. Ohio could be next.

Our wonderfully incompetent and corrupt Sheriff, Bruce Zuchowski, has already made it clear where he stands. Under his watch, the Portage County Sheriff's Office entered into a partnership with ICE through the controversial 287(g) program: giving his deputies the power to detain, question, and hold immigrants on behalf of federal immigration authorities. Zuchowski claims this makes the county "safer." But safer for who? Not for immigrants. Not for students. Not for the working-class people who now drive the backroads of Ravenna or Kent knowing any random traffic stop could become a life-altering arrest.

Since this agreement was signed, residents have reported a visible increase in sheriff's patrols, especially in neighborhoods known for immigrant families or activist organizing. Random traffic stops. "Safety checks." Silent intimidation. It's the slow creep of fear- policing as a message.

And what message is that?

That Portage is no sanctuary. That the sheriff's office now serves federal ICE priorities over local community needs. That your citizenship status, your skin color, your accent could be all it takes to make you a target.

Make no mistake: this is how the groundwork of authoritarian control is laid. Local cops, trained to act like border patrol. Sheriff's offices, quietly folded into federal operations. Dissent and difference redefined as threats.



You don't need stormtroopers when you've got sheriff's deputies and ICE fusion centers

So. What would an Edelweiss Pirate look like today?

Here. In LA. In Ohio. In Columbus. In Cleveland. In Akron. In Kent. In Ravenna.

- **Anonymous print culture:** Zines. Posters. Stickers. Like this very pamphlet. Low-tech, reproducible, and impossible to censor.
- **Disrupting fascist spaces:** Showing up, exposing their secret meetings, publishing their names and faces.
- **Helping the targeted:** Transporting protestors. Hiding threatened migrants. Passing secure information.
- **Mocking the regime:** Satire, humor, art. Make them ridiculous. Authoritarians fear being laughed at more than being hated.
- **Networking, quietly:** Safe house networks. Encrypted communication. Mutual aid.

LA's moment is a warning and an opportunity. Federal troops are deployed against civilians on American streets. Habeas corpus, due process, privacy—these are all evaporating fast.

But in the cracks of oppression, resistance grows.

Be small. Be brave. Be a pirate. The Edelweiss Pirates didn't wait for Berlin to collapse. They fought in their own neighborhoods. You can fight in yours. It starts with leaflets, stickers, quiet acts of refusal.



As the state tries to clamp down on LA, or Chicago, or Columbus, remember: fascists fear the unpredictable. They fear the countless untraceable acts of rebellion that sap their strength.

Start here. Start small. Start now. No permission required.

This is not history class. This is happening now.

Modern Fascists 101

By T-Paine

"Fascism is not in itself a new order of society. It is the future refusing to be born."

- Gramsci, dying in prison

Forget the clean textbook definitions or the way high school teachers lump it into things that happened in Europe before the good guys won.

Fascism is not just Nazis and Mussolini. It's a living, mutating virus " and it has long since taken root in American soil.

Modern fascism doesn't wear brown-shirts. It wears cop uniforms, business suits, tactical gear, and red hats. It shares Facebook posts about saving the children, rants on YouTube about globalists, and quietly trains in gun clubs across Portage County.

A fascist will introduce a bill that seems like "common sense," something sweeping like a federal ban on pornography.

You might think to yourself "well, the porn industry is pretty sexist and objectifying women" or you might even have some theological moral concerns. You think "yeah, ok, this bill should be ok if it passes."



And then it does. And now the legal definition of porn is up for debate, now a group of fascists get to decide what is and isn't considered "pornographic."

Suddenly they're shutting down museums "too many topless statues" or they're cracking down on sexual health clinics, banning queer literature from libraries, labeling LGBTQ+ education as "pornographic," and arresting teachers for showing a medically accurate diagram of the human body during health class.

Because the goal was never about protecting anyone. It was about creating a tool so vague and moralistic that it could be used against anyone the fascists don't like.

That's how fascism works: it hides in something that sounds agreeable, then weaponizes your silence to crush everything that doesn't conform. That's how fascists have been silently eroding our civilization for years.

Oh and the gravy on top, because so few people are actually even aware of the fascist's tricks, they get to play the moralists when you complain.

"Liberals think pornography should be shown in kindergarten!"

"Liberals are mad they can't get their porn at the library!"

"Guess they want drag queens reading smut to your kids!"

They frame your defense of civil liberties, free expression, and bodily autonomy as some kind of depravity- because once they control the narrative, they don't need facts. Just outrage.



If they aren't hurting anyone, it's not "degenerate behavior" it's just people expressing themselves.

If you're going to hurt someone, believe it or not, you were capable of hurting someone whether or not you're dressed up like something different. Turns out people are the problem, not hobbies! Let's stop demonizing people for having them!

Yes, porn is a hobby. Yes, a well regulated and safe porn industry can and should exist and the current landscape does not reflect that. No, watching porn doesn't make someone bad.

That's the problem with fascism, it dresses itself up as "freedom" because it believes in a free market, so free that anyone can exploit anyone if it means profits go up.

But the reality is, the way to fix problems, the way to make things safer and less likely to cause harm is to do just that: regulate.

The solution isn't banning, the solution has always been regulation. But the fascists told you that a regulated market makes the economy suffer.

Fascism is not just brutality, it's myth + power.

It needs a lie about the past and a dream of returning to it. Whether it's the Confederacy, the Crusades, or some imaginary 1950s where everyone knew their place,□ fascism thrives on nostalgia, hierarchy, and fear.



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Hell is real, but you don't have to go quietly.