

# Understanding Ur-Fascism: Absurdity, Control, and Resistance

Adapted from Umberto Eco's 'Ur-Fascism' (1995), with modern parallels, historical quotes, and references from Star Trek and Laibach. Compiled for analysis and resistance.

## 1. The Cult of Tradition

Mythologized pasts replace complex realities. E.g., MAGA, 'traditional values'.

## 2. Rejection of Modernism

Complexity, ambiguity, and intellectuals are vilified. Simplicity = purity.

## 3. Action for Action's Sake

Thinking is weakness. Acting on rage or impulse is glorified.

## 4. Disagreement is Treason

Critique = enemy behavior. 'You're with us or against us.'

## 5. Fear of Difference

Targets the 'other'-immigrants, queer people, minorities.

## 6. Frustrated Middle Class

Authoritarianism feeds on lost privilege and status anxiety.

## 7. Obsession with Conspiracy

Everything is orchestrated by 'them'. QAnon, globalist cabals.

## 8. Enemies Strong & Weak

They're both pathetic and omnipotent. Classic doublethink.

## 9. Pacifism = Complicity

Violence is seen as virtue. Peace is painted as cowardice.

## 10. Contempt for the Weak

The poor, disabled, and marginalized are scorned as burdens.

## 11. Heroism for Everyone

Everyone must be a martyr or warrior. Propaganda valorizes sacrifice.

## 12. Machismo & Weapons

Hypermasculinity, gun culture, military cosplay.

## 13. Selective Populism

The Leader \*is\* the People. Anyone else is an enemy.

## 14. Impoverished Vocabulary (Newspeak)

Nuance vanishes. 'Fake news', 'woke', 'patriot', etc.

## Additional References & Parallels

### **Star Trek: The Next Generation - 'Chain of Command, Part II'**

Captain Picard is tortured and told to say there are five lights when he sees four. A metaphor for authoritarian control over truth.

### **Laibach (band)**

"We are fascists as much as Hitler was a painter." A satire of totalitarian aesthetics that highlights the absurd theatricality of power.

### **George Orwell - 1984**

Doublethink, Newspeak, and the Party's control over reality mirror fascist tactics.

### **Dorothy Day**

"Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system." Refusal to comply is the beginning of resistance.

### **Umberto Eco**

Wrote 'Ur-Fascism' to show how fascism is a style of thought, not just a regime.